

Treasury reaps benefits of EU budget freeze

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

AN AGREEMENT to freeze the European Union budget next year means Britain will pay less in real terms for its membership of the European Union than in any year since it joined in 1973.

Driven by the need for big spending cuts to qualify for monetary union, EU ministers agreed on Thursday night to cut £2 billion from funds for agriculture, regional aid and other areas. Although the European Parliament has power to add additional spending, the deal among governments should keep the overall EU budget at the current level of £65 billion.

This follows years of steady increases, including an 8 per cent jump this year.

The Treasury will also benefit from an expected discount next year of about £500 million, representing its share of £7 billion which was unpaid in the 1995 EU budget. The EU has been increasingly over-forecasting its budgets in recent years, a habit which the member states want to break.

The 1995 repayment is expected to be matched by a further big return from unpaid funds in 1996. The paybacks, made in the form of a future credit, are welcome to the Government as the Chan-

cellor prepares a tight budget in the autumn but it has been part of Treasury calculations for months.

The EU has made its main savings through the reform of the common agricultural policy, which consumes half the EU budget. Regional spending has also been delayed, partly because cash-starved states are reluctant to come up with the required matching funds for projects on their territory.

With the help of the rebate won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984 and its declining weight relative to the rest of Europe, Britain's net contributions to

the EU have been in long decline. London's gross contribution in 1996 is expected to be £6.7 billion. According to Treasury figures this falls to £1.6 billion once EU farm subsidies, regional aid and other payments are deducted, the lowest ever in real terms.

The demand for a spending freeze in 1997 was led by Germany and France, the core states in the project for monetary union (EMU). Both are struggling against stagnation to curb their deficits in time to match the criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

The key test of a deficit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product will be applied early in 1998 to countries' performance in 1997. Alain Lamassouire, the French budget minister, hailed the deal as 'good news for European and French taxpayers' and said it showed citizens that Europe was tightening its belt along with the national governments.

The 1997 freeze will not affect spending to relieve the effects of BSE on the European beef industry. It was approved by majority vote, against opposition from Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Austria, which felt they would be unduly penalised.

Approval was won from Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland, the poorest member states and net beneficiaries of the EU. It was guaranteed that their funds would not be cut.

Redwood claims Tories will split during election

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY infighting over Europe is expected to intensify today with a blunt warning from John Redwood that the Government's position on the single currency would unravel during a three-week general election campaign.

Mr Redwood has seized on the resignation of David Heathcoat-Amory to say that the Cabinet and Tory party would split within weeks of an election. The intervention, on the day he flies to the United States for a lecture tour to

meet leading Republicans, will infuriate John Major, who has appealed for loyalty.

Bill Cash, the Euro-sceptic MP, last night wrote to Kenneth Clarke, the Cabinet's most enthusiastic advocate of a single currency, urging him to do a "Heathcoat-Amory" and resign.

Mr Redwood, writing in *The Times* today, says that a decision on replacing the pound with the euro would have to be taken within weeks of the election. "It is difficult to see how we could go through an election campaign with both major parties saying that

the single currency issue would be settled later."

□ Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has declined an invitation by Mr Redwood to sign a joint letter to the 10 worst-performing local education authorities, nine of which are under Labour control.

In a speech to Chester Conservatives last night, Mr Redwood called on Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to make a more robust statement of support for Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools.

John Redwood, page 20

John Redwood, page 20

United leader lends Blair support

BY ANDREW PIERCE

TONY BLAIR has scored a political success over the soccer-loving John Major by securing the electoral endorsement of Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, nicknamed the Red Devils.

Labour officials were delighted yesterday to have won the public backing of Mr Ferguson, who is an icon to thousands of British football fans.

By contrast Mr Major, a

lifelong Chelsea fan, has been incensed by press reports that he is cancelled every time he takes his place on the terraces of the west London club.

Chelsea supporters have complained that the Prime Minister's appearances have coincided with a string of defeats. The public declaration of support by Mr Ferguson, one of the best-paid men in British sport, came in an interview with *New Labour* magazine. "He's [Blair] done a brilliant job. He has built the bridge between what the trade

unions have wanted from Labour and what the public have wanted. The result is that the Labour Party is actually speaking for the people again," he said.

Recently the shirts of Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs raised £22,500 at a Labour Party auction.

□ The general election will be held on May 1, according to a poll of 151 MPs by Harris for the Parliamentary house magazine. It found that 49 per cent of MPs believe that is the date Mr Major will choose.



Ferguson: popular icon

Judge brings blunt Boycott's court innings to a close

Continued from page 1 of travelling from his beloved county, replied: "We like to think we are a bit different."

He made it plain he did not regard ball tampering as a hanging matter. It was like speeding on a motorway, not like bashing old ladies on the head. But he would not name players who tampered with the ball. "Not unless the judge makes me. I would prefer not to go to prison."

He agreed with Imran and Michael Atherton, the England captain, that the laws on ball tampering should be reviewed. "They should have dealt with it years ago. But the International Cricket Conference takes a long time to do anything. It's slower than a tortoise."

Boycott revealed he had lost none

of his bluntness, even when talking to members of the visiting Pakistani team. "They are exceptionally talented players. I don't have a problem with them. But they are headstrong. Only yesterday, I spoke to one of them and said: 'You want your damned heads knocking together some of the time.'"

Now 55, Boycott had started playing for Yorkshire in 1962 when the team was captained by Brian Close, who gave evidence to the court earlier. Close had denied ball tampering was common and refused to comment when asked if he regarded Boycott as an honest man.

When Mr Carman asked whether he had any reason to doubt his honesty, Boycott replied: "I think it is fair to say he didn't come here as an

unbiased witness. I think he is a bitter and angry man trying to get his own back which is why he came here to cast aspersions on my honesty and integrity."

"I have been outspoken and critical of him. I said Yorkshire would be no good until he left the club. He left last year and they are now doing well."

Boycott held up the white cricket shoe and said he would like to say some things about the evidence given by Close. "It will only take three minutes or so."

Mr Justice French: "We play this procedure. I would not call it a game because it is rather more serious, according to rules and one of the rules is that each side asks questions and it is sometimes dangerous for the witness to volunteer something from

outside."

Mr Carman asked Boycott whether apart from ball tampering he was aware of other ways in which the rules of the game were broken.

Boycott: "Yes, with Close as captain in certain games. He would instruct us to..."

He never finished his sentence as Charles Gray, QC, who is representing Ian Botham and Allan Lamb in the libel action jumped to his feet to say that as Close was not in court to defend himself he had a duty to object.

Boycott: "It's all right for him to criticise me and I can't reply for his untruthfulness."

Gray: "Be quiet Mr Boycott."

Carman: "Do you agree or disagree with Mr Close's comment that

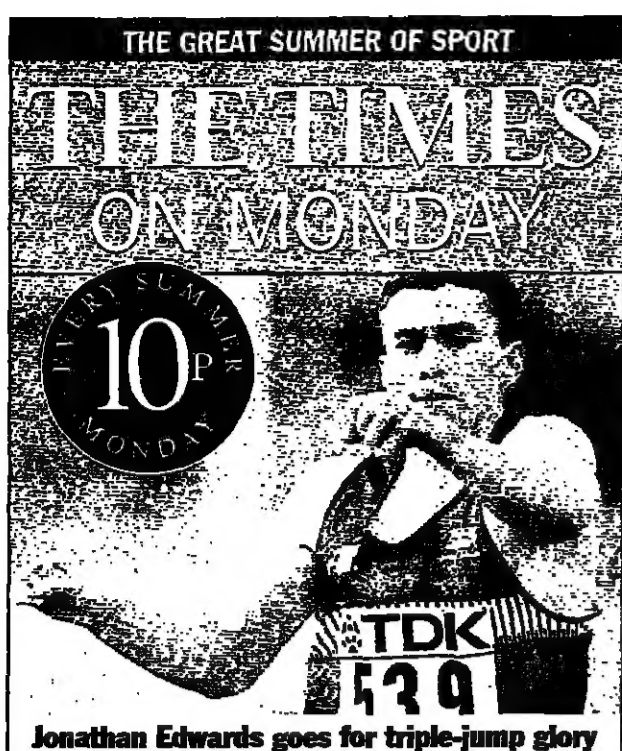
it is the game first, team second and the player third?"

Boycott: "I don't understand the question."

Mr Justice French then brought Boycott's innings to an end.

Muttering as he left the witness box that he had been denied the opportunity to give his views on Close Boycott left the court without ever explaining what he intended to do with the shoe.

Botham and Lamb are suing Imran over "an offensive personal attack" in *India Today* magazine which they say called them racist, uneducated and lacking in class and upbringing. Botham alone is suing over a report in *The Sun* which, he says, accused him of ball tampering. Imran denies libel.



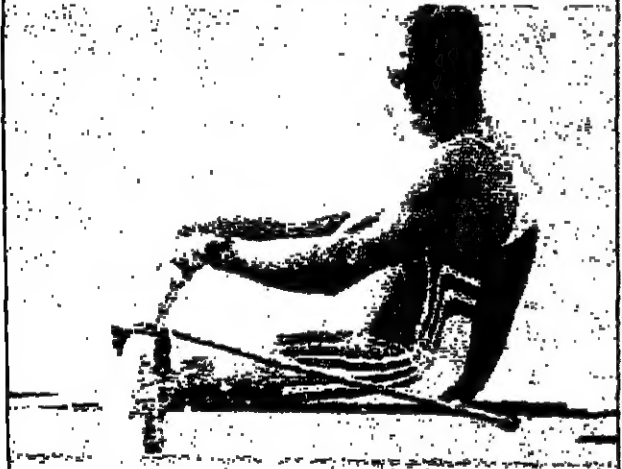
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'Because we tried to help, I have lost my job and we have used up all our savings'

Good turn plunged couple into fight for their house

BY IAN MURRAY

AN ACT of kindness at a sailing club led a family into an 18-month battle for their house after the couple they had allowed to stay for a short while refused to leave.

Roger and Ann Hodgkison agreed to let the couple live in their four-bedroomed home in Beltinge, Kent, while they looked for a buyer. A sale had fallen through at the last minute and they had taken a bridging loan, costing £900 a month, so that they could move into their new house.

They were confident of finding another purchaser quickly and chatted about their problem at Herne Bay Sailing Club. Mr Hodgkison, 55, a former world and national catamaran champion, saw no harm in helping out when Tony and Linda Webb said that the lease on their rented house had expired.

"You tend to be more relaxed with people who are fellow members," Mr Hodgkison said. "We didn't know their weight and we had no reason to be suspicious."

"They said they had lost their lease and just wanted to stay for a week while they found a new place to live. We did not know until later they

had just been evicted for failing to pay £3,000 rent to a lady of 91. We decided to let them stay and at first I didn't want them to pay anything."

That was in February last year. After a week the Webbs asked to stay on temporarily and said that they wanted to pay rent. Mr Hodgkison, an accountant, asked for £500 a month to help to meet the cost of the bridging loan, and signed an agreement saying that in return for the money the Webbs would look after the house and allow prospective purchasers to look round.

Two days later the Webbs took the agreement to Canterbury council and claimed housing benefit. The council told them the agreement was not properly worded and advised them what it should say. The Webbs went back to the council with a letter, which the Hodgkisons say they never saw, setting out the agreement in an acceptable form. The council began paying housing benefit of £191 a fortnight into the Hodgkisons' account.

This created a landlord-tenant arrangement, which meant the Webbs were legally entitled to stay. When the Hodgkisons found a buyer, the Webbs refused to move

out, saying that they were interested in buying the house themselves. The Hodgkisons offered help to find a mortgage. After a second buyer came and went the Hodgkisons realised that the Webbs had no intention of buying the £90,000 property, so in October they began legal action to have them evicted.

After four hearings costing £4,000 in legal fees and £16,000 in bridging loan repayments, the Hodgkisons have regained possession of the house after a ruling by Canterbury County Court.

"Because we tried to help people we thought were friends, my husband is an emotional wreck. I have lost my job and we have used up all our savings," Mrs Hodgkison said yesterday. "Our daughter will have to change school in the middle of GCSEs because we cannot go on paying fees. I was 50 yesterday but nobody could afford any presents. I have sold my car and we are looking for other things to sell to try to make ends meet."

"We need to sell the house quickly but it is a wreck, with oil smeared everywhere. They were running a car repair business from the house and



Roger and Ann Hodgkison outside the house, which they say has been left a wreck by the unwanted tenants

there are smashed wind-screens in the hedges and old batteries in the flowerbeds."

The Webbs left on Thursday last week, just before they were due to be evicted. Mr Webb said he had done nothing wrong and had been acting on advice from Canterbury council and his lawyer, who said that the tenancy agreement allowed him to stay as long as he liked. "There is

no way we can stay here now. We will have to leave the area we have lived in for 18 years," Mr Webb said.

Mr Hodgkison has resigned from the sailing club, which he joined in 1957, in protest at the fact that the family which brought him close to ruin are still members. Tony Smith, the vice-commander, said: "This is a matter between two members that has nothing

whatever to do with the club. We are sorry if Mr Hodgkison wants to leave, but we cannot get involved."

A spokeswoman at Canterbury council said: "We are all in sympathy with Mr Hodgkison, who is a terribly nice man, too good for his own good. He was accepting the housing benefit money and we therefore had no reason to think there was anything

wrong with the tenancy agreement."

The court was told that Mr Webb had received an 18-month suspended sentence four years ago for fraudulently obtaining a £90,000 mortgage and deceiving the Department of Social Security and Canterbury council by obtaining benefit. He had asked for 60 similar offences to be taken into consideration.

Man who destroyed river gets £1,500 fine

BY NICK NUTTALL

A DEMOLITION contractor who dumped deadly chemicals, "destroying a river" and costing £500,000 in clean up costs, was ordered to do 200 hours' community service and fined £1,500 yesterday.

Ed Gallagher, chief executive of the Environment Agency, which brought the prosecution, said last night that it was disappointed by the sentence. "We are concerned that some people might think that the laws on the environment are not tough enough," he said.

Raymond Hake, of Taunton, Somerset, was found guilty at Yeovil magistrates court under the Water Resources Act 1991 after disposing of an estimated 250 gallons of lindane, a pesticide, and mercury into Mill Stream at Somerton, Somerset. The maximum sentence for the offence was a fine of up to £20,000 and six months in jail.

The stream, where the contractor was demolishing a nearby seed mill, feeds the River Cary. The pollution, which happened in August 1995, caused severe contamination, killing fish and other river life, and turning the water pink.

Dr David Slater, the agency's director of pollution prevention, said: "This was a devastating pollution incident that destroyed a river... but the worst aspect of this case was that it was entirely avoidable."

Gay man allowed to adopt child

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A HOMOSEXUAL man has won the right to adopt a child. The ruling by appeal judges in Scotland is the first known case of an adoption by a homosexual male being approved in the United Kingdom.

The most senior judge in Scotland endorsed the adoption of a five-year-old disabled boy by a nurse who has lived in a "close and loving relationship" with another man for ten years. Lord Hope, the Lord President, sitting with two other judges, ruled that there was no bar in law to a male homosexual or lesbian adopting a child as a single person. All couples have to be married before they can adopt.

The judgment increases pressure on ministers to clarify the rules. Some campaigners are urging a ban on gays adopting while gay rights activists want same-sex couples to be given the right to adopt together.

The case was brought in the name of a state registered nurse, 34, who has cared for the child for more than 18 months in the Ayrshire home he shares with his partner, 35. The boy had been taken into care in Manchester and the local authority could not find anyone in the area willing to provide a permanent home. Through a private agency, he was placed in 1994 with the prospective adopter, who has nursed disabled people.

At the Court of Session in Edinburgh in May, Lord Gill had refused permission for the man to adopt. Lord Hope, at the same court, said yesterday that decision had been wrong.



Domenico Forte faces legal action from Forte hotels

Dear sir... that name is our forte

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A NEW tearoom quickly caught the eye of the manager of a local hotel. Both establishments carried the same famous name: Forte. Both were founded by descendants of men who left a small town in Italy a century ago to seek their fortunes in Britain.

However, there was no celebration of their connections last night. The giant hotel chain is threatening legal action to stop the owner of the smaller premises from using his own surname on his shop. Domenico Forte, 60, opened the 40-seat, first-floor cafe in the shadows of the 11th century Winchester Cathedral after a career in teaching. His grandfather emigrated from Italy to Britain — at the same time as Lord Forte's father — and started a chain of ice-cream parlours and grills in Exeter using the family name.

Mr Forte said: "At one time every seaside town from Exeter to Kent had a Forte establishment belonging to my family and we didn't hear a peep from the other Fortes. I have made it clear in my advertising that I am from Exeter and not part of the

group. I'm proud of my name. I don't model myself on the Forte company. They charge £2.50 for a pot of tea. Mine is only 95p. I don't need their prestige. I will be judged locally on the service and value for money I give."

Lord Forte, whose father ran a cafe in Alloa, Scotland, opened a milk bar in London in 1934. It grew into a giant empire, which was lost to the Granada group this year in a hostile takeover.

Forte (UK) Ltd, which owns the Forte Crest Hotel in Winchester, has written to Mr Forte saying: "Unless you undertake that the sign outside your tearooms will be removed and no further use of the Forte mark will be made, we reserve the right to take legal action."

A spokesman said they were that Mr Forte was using his own name, and added: "Forte Hotels has no objection to fair competition, but it cannot allow its most important brand name to be utilised by third parties. The use of the name in the tearooms in Winchester is clearly an infringement of trademark."

Who dares investigate SAS emblem wins few thanks

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE famous SAS emblem, a winged dagger, is neither a dagger nor winged, according to research by a former member of the elite regiment. Last night a retired member of the SAS said: "This has come as quite a shock."

For decades the SAS has been known by the symbol on its cap badge and the motto *Who Dares Wins*. The SAS Regimental Association decided to find out the origins of the emblem, only to discover that the dagger is really a sword and the wings are flames.

Research also revealed that the Special Air Service was nearly saddled with a less inspiring motto: *Descend to Ascend*. This was discarded in favour of *Who Dares Wins*, chosen by the late Colonel David Stirling, founder of the SAS in 1941.

The revelations are detailed in the SAS Regimental Association's newsletter and are expected to be published in its magazine *Mars and Minerva*. The researcher discovered that the emblem was designed by the late Bob Tait, one of the founding members of the SAS. "Regimental history is not a



Not wings but flames

strong point within the regiment," writes the researcher in the newsletter. "The cap badge is Damocles' sword of retribution, surrounded by flames — not a winged dagger."

He blames the error on the late Major Roy Farran, a former SAS man whose book *Winged Dagger* was published after the Second World War. "His research was poor," the researcher says.

"The truth about the cap badge will, perhaps, kill off the reference to the winged dagger that appears, without fail, in every publication, books on the SAS, and newspaper stories."

The researcher also explained why the SAS colours are a mixture of Oxford and Cambridge blues.

Colonel Stirling went to Cambridge and his first lieutenant in the newly formed regiment, Lieutenant Jock Lewis, was educated at Oxford.



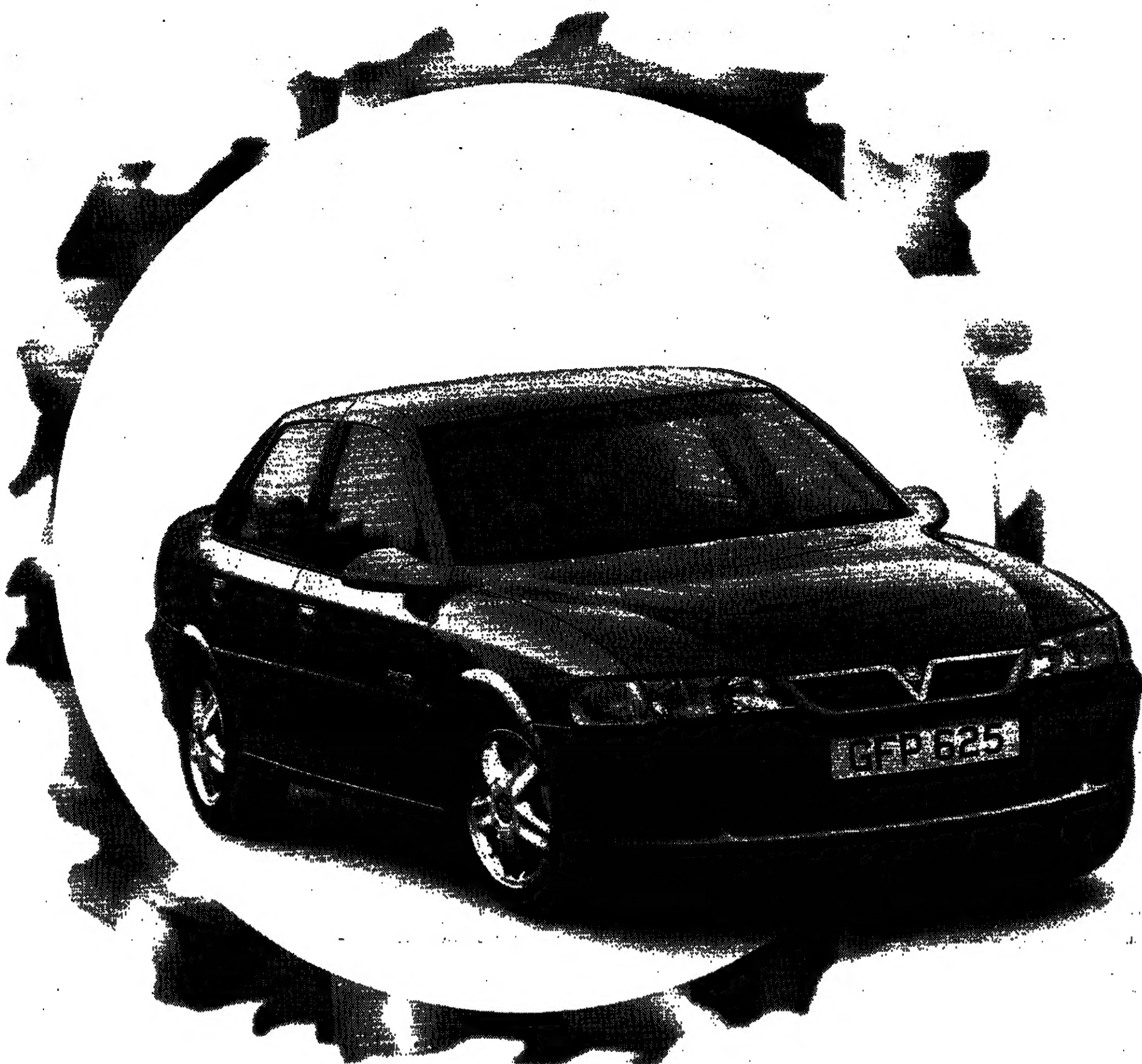
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Political offspring once looked forward to their 'inheritance', but now they shun corridors of power

Why children of MPs abstain with their feet

By Alice Thomson
and Andrew Pierce

WHEN an embittered Clare Short warned her colleagues yesterday not to put their daughters on the political stage, most MPs quickly agreed.

Jack Cunningham, also in the Shadow Cabinet, said he had already advised his daughters, Catherine and Alexandra, not to become MPs.

Most political offspring were even more adamant that they did not want to go anywhere near the "nasty and hurtful" world of Westminster with "the vanity and ego, the manoeuvres and dishonesty", as Ms Short called it when she was moved from transport to development in the Labour reshuffle on Thursday.

Yet once sons and daughters used to queue up to take over Daddy's constituency, "inheriting" a seat was as great a gift as being given the family jewellery or shooting estate.

In the 19th century rotten boroughs guaranteed that the eldest son of ennobled political dynasties did an apprenticeship in the Commons before succeeding their father in the Lords.

Even this century political dynasties were still sending a stream of young Churchills, Chansons, Bonham-Carters and Heathcoat-Amorys to fill the palace on the Thames and father-and-son relay teams, like the Hurds, Hoggs and Aitkens, were common.

Labour MPs such as Hilary Armstrong and Greville Janner also look over their father's seats. Then political children's major worry was whether they could match their parents' achievements. But now many children would not be seen dead entering the corridors of power.

John Smith's glamorous daughters Sarah, Jane and Catherine made him look like a film star at Labour Party conferences. Laura Patten mesmerised the Hong Kong press by wearing a short skirt when her father, Chris, became Governor. The Heseltine daughters give



Journalists: Annabel Heseltine and Carol Thatcher



Jane, left, and Sarah Smith lent glamour to father



Lobbyist and aide: Victoria Scott and Daniel Hodges

their ageing father an aura of vitality. But few young daughters actually want to boost the paltry number of women MPs.

Dr Cunningham yesterday admitted that politics could be nasty. "I've been in the House of Commons for 26 years and I think my daughters have

seen it from all sides, up, down, in and out and I think they know there are easier and better ways of working for society," he said.

Eddy Temple-Morris, 30, a Radio 1 producer and son of Peter Temple-Morris, comes from a long line of politicians but he has shunned politics.

"Dinner table conversations were always really rocking — lots of good table-banging because Dad wanted us to know our own minds. But I am not a political animal at all. For me politics and the news are the boring bits between the records," he said.

David Prescott shares a flat with his father John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Labour party. Yesterday Prescott Senior said: "Of course I would recommend politics as a career. You are privileged to be a Member of Parliament." But David's earliest memory of his father is on television including several of Nigel Lawson's offspring, he decided to opt for journalism and the other side of the microphone, instead.

The number of children working for parents who are MPs has also fallen sharply as MPs worry about nepotism and children want to reap more lucrative rewards than just opening endless whingeing letters. Daniel Hodges, assistant to Glenda Jackson, MP for Hampstead and Highgate, is also her son. Was he interested in a career in politics in his own right? "I can't discuss my own life," he said.

The Tory MP Nicholas Scott paid the price for teaching his daughter about politics at an early age. Instead of becoming an MP, she became a civil rights lobbyist and almost single-handedly caused her father's resignation as Minister for the Disabled.

After 26 years watching Mr Scott handle the press, Victoria gave a welter of interviews on how "shamefully" the Government was behaving over the disabled. "Being bought up in a politically aware environment definitely shaped my career but in a different way," she said.

Audrey and Valerie Wise were once seen as the most likely mother-and-daughter duo on the Labour benches. The Wise women have been active in politics since 1925.

But Valerie, the youngest member of the GLC, has put her parliamentary ambitions



Clare Short: spoke of "the vanity and ego, the manoeuvres and dishonesty" after losing her transport portfolio in Tony Blair's Shadow Cabinet reshuffle

on hold and works as an assistant to her mother.

Audrey said: "I don't think having a parent who is an MP actively helps a son or daughter who is trying to follow the same path. They have seen too many of the pitfalls. But I am happy and proud that Valerie is active in politics."

Jane Bonham Carter, a member of one of the leading Liberal dynasties of the last 100 years, was coy about whether she would follow in the footsteps of Asquith, her great-grandfather, who was Prime Minister, or her late father, Mark, who was a Liberal MP and peer.

Ms Bonham Carter has been involved in politics for much of her life, and started last week as head of communications for the Liberal Democrats after editing *A Week in Politics* on Channel 4, but she

is still not prepared to fight a seat.

Some MPs clearly still want their children to follow in their footsteps.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "I find politics very amenable and in practice a more friendly business than that of friends who have gone into academic life and journalism. My children will make up their own minds about a career."

Winston Churchill, the Tory MP for Daventry, whose grandfather was the wartime Prime Minister, great grandfather was Chancellor of the Exchequer and cousin is the minister Nicholas Soames, would be happy for any of his four children to keep the family flag flying in the Commons.

They are big enough to decide for themselves. But it is

a tougher life because the press is more intrusive and there are fewer MPs prepared to toe an independent line," he said.

Greville Janner, the first Labour MP to succeed his father in the same seat, said: "It is a proud privilege to serve as an MP. Having had a father in the kitchen I was well placed to see if I can stand the heat. My children have the same opportunity."

Mr Janner, the MP for Leicester West, was relaxed about the prospect of any of his children pursuing the same career. With a possible exception. "My son, Daniel, stood as a Labour candidate in the past but regrettably has changed sides and joined the Tories. It is a son's privilege to be wrong."

Alice Thomson, page 20

Lightbown widow is chosen to fight seat

By Alice Thomson

LADY LIGHTBOWN has been chosen by local Conservatives to fight the seat her late husband represented at the next general election.

Sir David was MP for Staffordshire South East for almost 13 years. As a government whip, for nine years, he was nicknamed The Terminator for the way he kept his troops in line. He died in December after watching the Varsity Match at Twickenham.

Lady Lightbown wanted to fight the subsequent by-election but was not selected. The seat was captured by Labour in April when Brian Jenkins achieved a 13,762 majority over the Conservatives.

Now Lady Lightbown, 55, a former teacher who was married to Sir David for 35 years and was his personal assistant, has been given another shot. She was selected as prospective parliamentary candidate for Tamworth, the redrawn constituency that covers most of the old Staffordshire South East seat. More than 60 Tories had sought the candidacy for Tamworth, where Sir Robert Peel founded the modern Conservative Party.

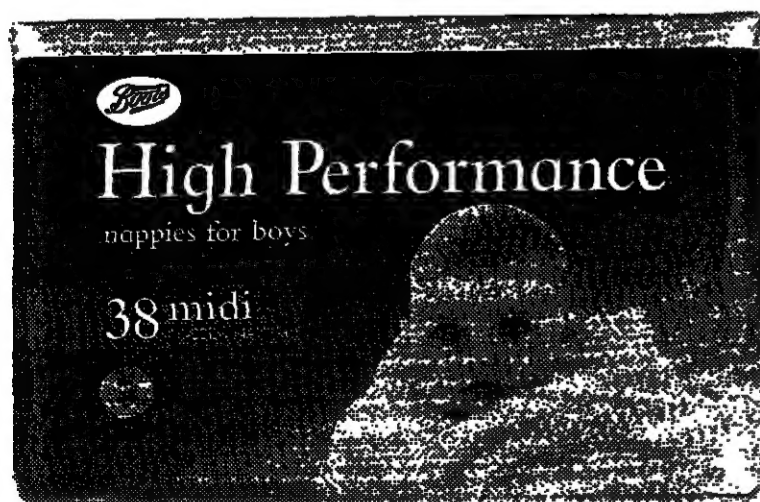
Lady Lightbown said: "Standing for Parliament was the last thing I would have done prior to David's death. But I wanted to keep alive the spirit of David's work. I am thrilled and cannot wait to get out on the doorsteps."

She added: "There were a great number of people, many of them Conservatives, who did not vote in the by-election and local elections. I want to find out why they have allowed the Labour Party to have a free rein."

"We will be knocking on doors in the constituency from now until the election to find out what is worrying people and put that right."

Ron Cook, chairman of the local Conservative association, said: "She is the ideal candidate for Tamworth. She has loads of experience and is well respected by everyone in the constituency. We are confident she will win back the seat for the Conservatives."

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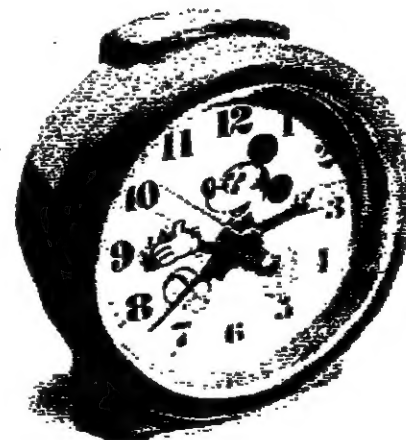
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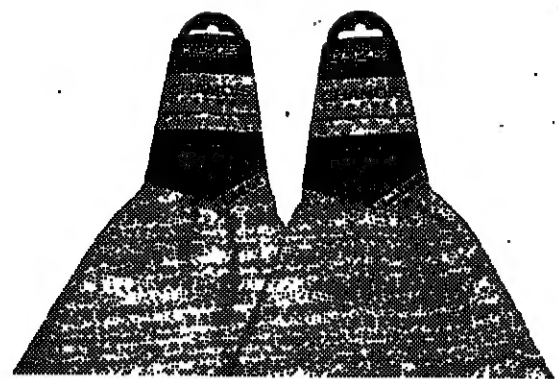
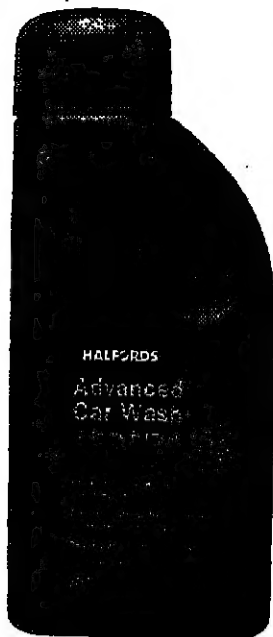
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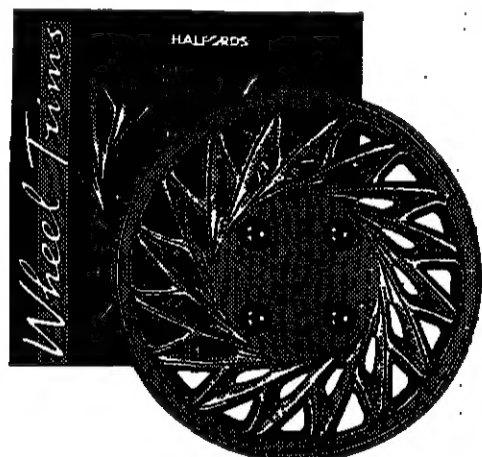


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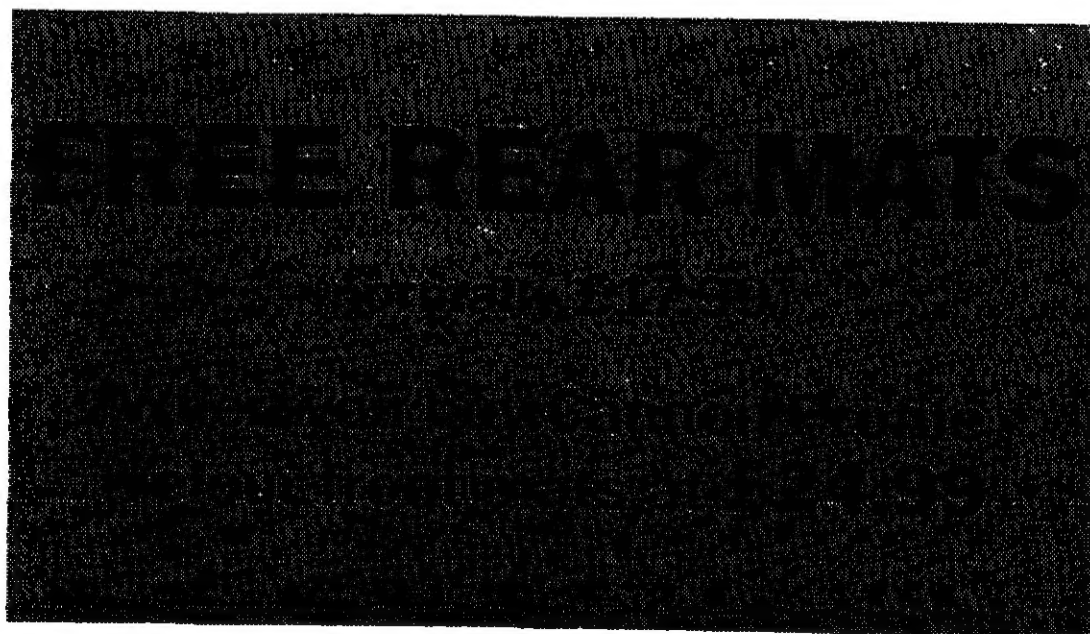
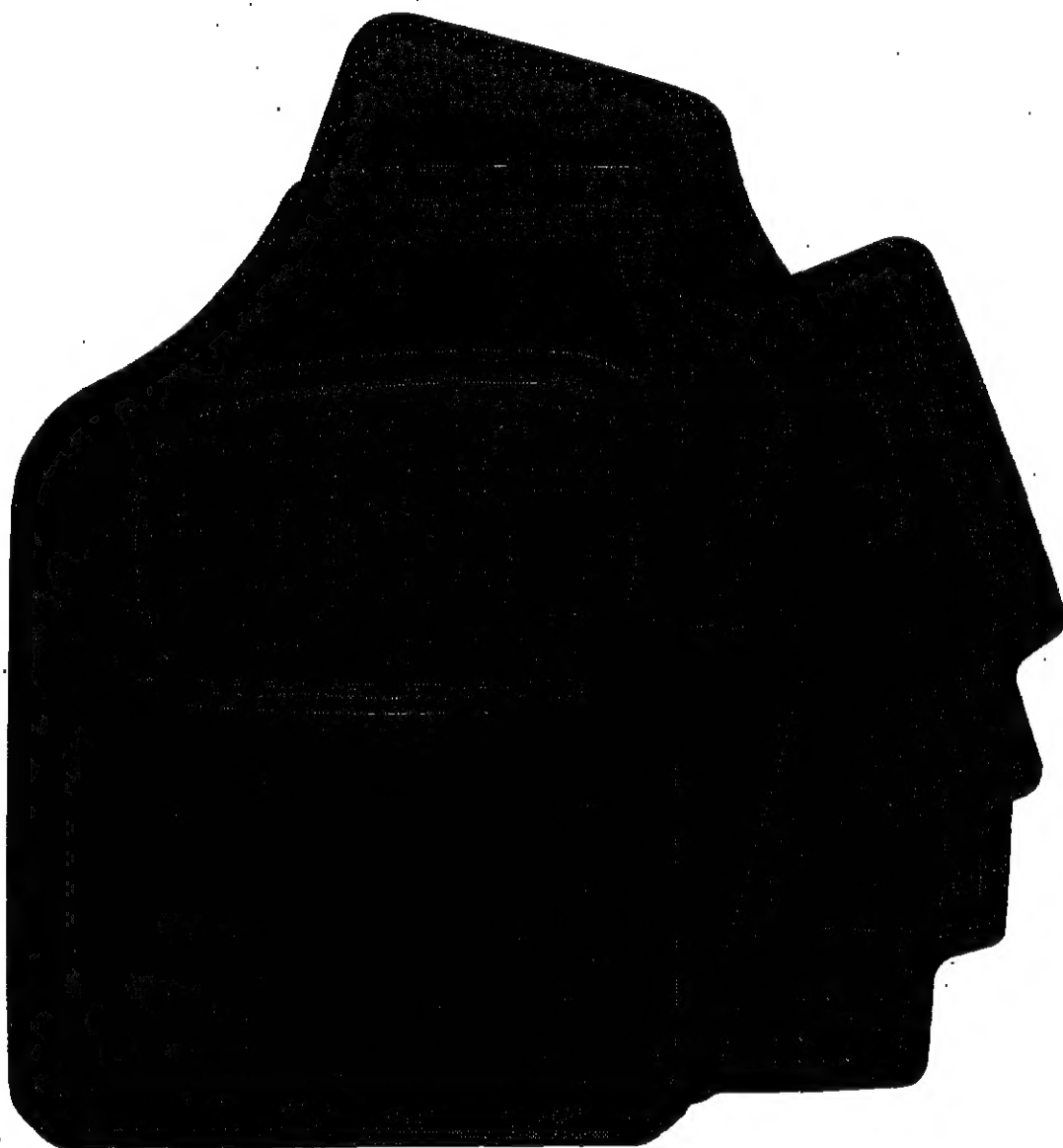
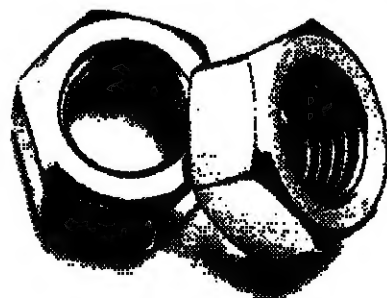
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Dean of St Paul's dismisses criticism by Catholic Herald as 'outrageous'

Church of England defends the Queen

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR clergy of the Church of England rallied last night in defence of the monarchy after an attack published in a leading Roman Catholic newspaper.

The Dean of St Paul's, the Very Rev Eric Evans, said the criticism of the Queen's role in the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales by the Catholic commentator William Oddie, and published in the *Catholic Herald*, were "outrageous and unscriptural".

Dr Evans, recently made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, an honour in the personal gift of the Queen, said: "What the Queen was trying to do was act as an honest mother and tidy the whole thing up. It was an unacceptable situation. It is unacceptable now, but at least it is tidier."

Dr Oddie, a former Anglican clergyman, questioned whether Catholic loyalty to the Crown could be sustained "in present conditions". He accused the House of Windsor of embarking on "an exercising in damage limitation" in which the first casualties have been "certain Christian principles of which until now the Queen herself was the most notable defender".

Dr Oddie said that the Queen had used her position to force a divorce on a wronged wife, compounding the destruction already caused to marriage and family life. "The monarch herself has now been seen openly to abandon the belief that marriage is indissoluble."

But Dr Evans, who retires at the end of the month from



The Queen at Buckingham University yesterday. William Oddie has questioned whether Roman Catholics can remain loyal to her

St Paul's, where his work has brought him into regular contact with the Royal Family, said: "The Church of England has always believed that divorce is possible. What Our Lord condemned was marrying again, which was really committing adultery. Remarriage is the difficulty."

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, said it was unfair to suggest that the Queen had put pres-

sure on the Prince and Princess of Wales to divorce. Regarding her well-publicised intervention at the time, he said: "It was more a question of recognising that a marriage had broken down, and the confusion of a state where this had happened, but they were reluctant to put in place the legal process and recognise it."

Although the Church's official view is still that divorcees should not remarry while

their former partners are still living, a working party, chaired by the Bishops of Portsmouth and Winchester, the Right Rev Kenneth Stevenson and the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, is to review this.

The remarriage of divorcees in church is currently forbidden under Church law although allowed by secular law. Practice varies according to the views of the local clergy. Already the rules on remar-

riage are being relaxed and remarried divorcees can now be ordained, which until recently was forbidden. A change of stance by the Church could pave the way for the Prince of Wales to remarry one day if he so wished, although Church leaders emphasised that there is no suggestion of that at present.

Dr Oddie said yesterday: "I am an absolutely convinced royalist and this is not a republican argument, but I am very disappointed by the way the Queen has handled this problem."

He said the Queen had to take her share of responsibility for the situation. "Both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church hold that marriage is indissoluble in the eyes of God."

At Your Service
Weekend, page 15

Credo

Children of God have more than relative values

Brian Mountford

APATHY, not relativism, is the enemy of a moral society and the Christian moral heritage. Moral apathy — the deadening of the moral spirit and the hardening of hearts — implies that people do not particularly care about right and wrong. With moral apathy, anything goes, and profit, personal advantage and pleasure are the probable criteria for action.

Moral relativism takes a serious view, but is founded on different principles from Christian ethics. It says that there are no moral principles which are necessarily right for all people in all societies at all times, and that what is right depends on what the individual or society thinks is right.

Christian ethics is not relativist because Christians believe in an external moral principle, namely God, who has revealed moral laws such as the Ten Commandments which set universal standards and who, in the person of Jesus Christ, embodies the underlying principle of all morality: self-giving love, the *agape* of the New Testament. Seductive though moral absolutism might be as a way of solving ethical dilemmas, revealed morality of this kind cannot provide a complete counterbalance to relativism. It was absolutist moral

attempt to copy Christ's lifestyle; it is to develop moral sensibility in dialogue with Christ.

Even in the Bible, moral ideas develop: the polygamy of the Old Testament heroes Abraham, Jacob and David is replaced by monogamy in the New Testament. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus cites old laws and draws out their essence.

This is where confusion can set in: the moral principles that derive from God still have to be applied and are relative to different social and cultural circumstances. A good example would be the changing attitude to the status of women, where it has taken centuries for theology to understand that men and women equally are made in the image of God.

Part of the genius of Christian ethics is that it is personal and involves relationship with God. It is therefore appropriate to ask, as a means of moral interpretation, what Christ would have done in a particular situation.

And it is equally important to remember that the Christian God is a God of forgiveness, renewal and reconciliation, who recognises that law without compassion is a tyrant. Those who do wrong and feel remorse are forgiven by God. But because God forgives does not mean that His standards are relative or watered down.

God recognises that goodness is hard to achieve, yet He does His people the honour of expecting them to live up to the loving potential He has implanted within them.

□ The Rev Brian Mountford is vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.



Dial-a-cassock helps vicars answer the call

HUNDREDS of clergyman have bought a new-style cassock with shoulder pads and a pocket for a mobile telephone. The Brunswick cassock was launched ten months ago by the clergy outfitters, Duncan's of Ironbridge, and was described, in yesterday's *Church Times* as suiting the modern "parson about town". Francis Morley, managing director of Duncan's, said the idea originated to help vicars

who were out and about in their cassocks: "A lot of them have mobile phones. The problem is where to keep it."

The Rev Barry North, vicar of Ironbridge, Shropshire, likes the new cassock because he no longer has to clip his telephone to his belt. He said: "A lot of parishioners don't like talking to answering machines. With a mobile phone, my calls are diverted and they can get straight through."

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Islanders appeal for £2m to buy their home

By Shirley English

THE residents of Eigg are to make a public appeal for £2 million to rescue their island from foreign ownership. The 63 residents have formed a partnership with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Highland Council in an effort to safeguard the future of the nine square mile island off the west coast of Scotland.

Eigg has been put up for sale by Martin Eckhardt Maruma, the German artist who bought it only 15 months ago. The community hopes that the appeal will receive a National Lottery donation.

When Maruma bought the island for £1.6 million, he was welcomed by residents who

residents set up a steering committee to consider ways to buy the island after hearing that Maruma was the subject of investment fraud investigations in Stuttgart. In May they held talks with Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, which has three reserves on Eigg. The buyout would be through a limited liability partnership.

Neil Willcox, reserves manager of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: "This is not about people whingeing about foreign owners. What we are keen to do here is to provide a secure and stable future for all the people. It's an effort to end the uncertainty."

Maggie Fyffe, 47, a crofter and secretary of the Eigg Trust, said: "It is a turning point for Eigg. We're sick and tired of private landlords. We believe we can do better."

In 1993 the crofting community of Assynt, near Lochinver, raised £300,000 in bank loans and grants to buy 20,000 acres of the North Assynt estate. Bill Ritchie, 55, an Assynt crofter who is an officer with the Crofters Commission, said: "There is widespread anger that our land and assets can be traded on the international market as a commodity."

Farhad Vladi, the Hamburg-based dealer who handled the sale of Eigg to Maruma, has been called in again to assist the agents Knight Frank in Edinburgh. Colin Strang Steel, of Knight Frank, said: "I expect there will be interest from the Far East and from America as well as from Britain, and of course there is the possibility that the islanders themselves might buy the island."

Maruma was unavailable for comment.

Leading article, page 21



Anything you can do: Dominic, left, and Simon O'Brien took identical degrees

Identical twins achieve a degree of similarity

By Kate Alderson

IDENTICAL twins who mirrored each other's academic achievements at school have been awarded the same degree results from Cambridge University.

Dominic and Simon O'Brien, aged 21, took upper second class degrees in natural science this week and now plan to study for doctorates in bio-chemistry.

The twins, from Alnwick, Northumberland, passed the same nine GCSEs with A grades and Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at A level with A grades. They opted for separate colleges at Cambridge, Dominic going to Downing and Simon to Churchill, to establish some independence from each other. However, in their spare time they listened to the same music — Oasis and REM — though Dominic played the trumpet and Simon the trombone.

Both were delighted with their degrees and, when they



The twins at school: they passed the same subjects

played a game of tennis together to celebrate, they called a halt at 6-4, 4-6, 7-7, still inseparable.

"It was just typical," Dominic said. "We hadn't played tennis for over a year and when we did there was nothing between us. No one seems surprised any more when we achieve similar grades. It's taken for granted. I don't know if there is

any big secret. We've both worked equally hard."

Simon said that they had been competitive at school but, when they went to separate colleges, they began to live more independent lives. "The same will happen when we return to Cambridge for our PhDs. We will stay in different houses for our studies, even though we will be on the same course."

Six men held over journalist's killing

By Audrey Mager, Ireland Correspondent

SIX men have been arrested in connection with the murder in Dublin of the journalist Veronica Guerin.

The prime suspect in the killing, a millionaire Dublin drug dealer, was not among those arrested, but police hope the men in custody may provide information about him or the gunman hired to kill Ms Guerin.

The six, in their 20s and 30s, are being questioned in separate police stations. Police raided 15 houses in Dublin, Tipperary and Kildare on Thursday and recovered a large sum of money as well as diaries and letters.

The arrests coincided with emergency government legislation rushed through the Senate yesterday to deal with the country's worsening level of crime. Pat Byrne, the

Garda Commissioner appointed two weeks ago, said he was confident that his team of 60 detectives would find Ms Guerin's killers.

Mr Byrne met members of the press yesterday in an attempt to improve relations with the media. He said that he intended to bring the Irish police force into the 21st century and build a professional, dedicated force integrated into, and supported by, the community.

Relatives and friends of Ms Guerin gathered at Dublin airport church yesterday for a Mass to commemorate the journalist, who was shot dead a month ago yesterday by a hired gunman. Members of the public also held a vigil and gathered on the dual carriageway on the outskirts of Dublin where Ms Guerin was killed.

Microphones may save dolphins

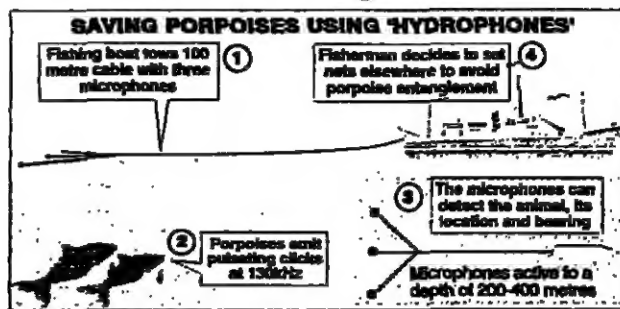
By Nick Nuttall

FISHING boats could be fitted with a new development in underwater sound technology to help to preserve a dwindling dolphin population.

Scientists alarmed by the number of harbour porpoises trapped and killed in fishing nets every year have created a system using a cluster of up to three underwater microphones, towed from the back of a ship, to detect the animals' high-frequency clicks.

Harbour porpoises are Britain's smallest dolphin, but they are not seen above the waves as frequently as the common dolphin. Fishermen who often set their nets at night can have no idea that porpoises are around until it is too late and the mammals are found dead in the nets. The "hydrophones" would allow them to know the risk and set their nets elsewhere.

Although scientists and conservationists have little idea



on the size of populations around the British coast, all the evidence is that numbers are declining. About 2,000 porpoises are killed accidentally in the nets each year in the Celtic Sea alone.

Successful tests using the click detector have just been completed off the Pembrokeshire coast, where there is a known population of harbour porpoises. The detector is now to be deployed on the research ship, *Song of the Whale*, off the Isles of Scilly and in the Celtic Sea during the summer.

Dr Jonathan Gordon, an official with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and a researcher at the Wildlife Conservation Unit, Oxford University, said that harbour porpoises made clicks at 130kHz, while fishing boats and other underwater sounds, including common dolphins, are at far lower frequencies.

Dr Gordon, whose charity has been working with the Institute of Offshore Engineering in Edinburgh, said that the research with the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation

will allow them to study porpoise behaviour around bottom-anchored gill nets. "Theoretically, they should be able to detect the nets, so it is a mystery why so many get entangled". Some researchers believe the porpoises are attracted to the nets. Others wonder if the animals confuse them with seaweed.

The researchers also hope to test various dolphin scarers, including high-frequency "pingers".

The research has been given extra urgency by the announcement this week that a 10-year ban on bottom-anchored gill nets in Scottish waters is to be lifted. The ban was brought in to protect migratory salmon returning to rivers to spawn.

Helen McLachlan, the RSPCA's senior scientific officer, said: "The Government has failed badly in its duty to protect the harbour porpoise by allowing the Scottish Office to go ahead with this move."



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Woolf report: penalties proposed for litigants who spin out proceedings and browbeat opponents

Civil court reform promises faster, cheaper justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Master of the Rolls announced a revolution in the civil courts yesterday, in which those who seek to exploit the system by game-playing and delaying tactics will face heavy penalties.

Lord Woolf's reforms to create what he called "a new landscape for civil justice" for the 21st century herald the end of the present lawyer-driven system of litigation, which is expensive and slow. Litigation is to become a last resort. People will be given financial incentives to settle early and to use alternative methods for resolving disputes, such as mediation.

Judges are to end exploitation of the civil system by litigants who seek to grind down their opponents with oppressive and unreasonable tactics. They will be penalised with extra costs and big interest charges.

Lord Woolf said yesterday: "Litigation must be conducted not for the convenience of the lawyers, but for the convenience of the parties." Judges will take on a new role in managing cases and dictating their pace and shape, setting timetables and limiting the costs that litigants can run up.

Financial incentives to settle disputes before they reach court will include extra interest of up to 25 per cent, charged on top of costs, for refusing a settlement offer which is matched at trial. Unreasonable behaviour in court, such as delaying tactics

MAIN POINTS

- Litigation to be a last resort, with litigants encouraged to settle
- Judges to become trial managers, setting timetables, capping costs and imposing sanctions
- Alternative dispute resolution to be encouraged through information points and legal aid funding
- New opportunity for offers to settle, enforced by sanction of higher interest rates on costs
- Three trial tracks, including a fast track for disputes up to £10,000 with fixed costs of £2,500, a 30-week timetable and three-hour hearings
- Single set of rules for all civil courts and new trial centres
- Computerisation of courts and training programme for judges

or excessive demands for information, will not be tolerated, Lord Woolf said. Sanctions will include immediate orders to pay costs or extra interest.

The 300-page report, the result of two years' work by Lord Woolf and his team, recommends a new structure covering both county courts and the High Court, with a single set of rules and new civil trial centres around the country. There will be three

tracks for disputes: the small claims court for cases involving up to £3,000; a fast track for sums up to £10,000; and a multi-track for bigger and more complex cases.

Announcing the measures yesterday, Lord Woolf said that the reforms would end the present "trial by combat", which encouraged unreasonable behaviour. The new system will be simpler, more accessible and more flexible, he said.

Cases will be handled in a way proportionate to their value and complexity, will provide certainty over the costs and length of proceedings, and will give equality between parties so that a wealthy litigant cannot exploit the weaker.

"Our system no longer serves any section of the public in the way it should," he said. The quality of the courts' rulings were as good, if not better, than elsewhere. "But this is not enough if it is unaffordable, or if its costs are disproportionate, or if its delays are excessive so that it does not serve the interests of those who need justice."

Individuals and small businesses, as well as large commercial concerns, were let down by the system, he added.

The new system will mean a reform both in the civil courts' structure and in the attitude of judges and lawyers. Judges would have to become robust in taking a tough line to ensure timetables and court



Lord Woolf announcing yesterday his vision of "a new landscape for civil justice"

orders were adhered to, Lord Woolf said. At present these were flouted with impunity.

"The rules are totally disregarded because we have a culture in which lawyers are allowed to conduct the proceedings as they wish," he said.

To bolster the new principle that litigation is a last resort, there will be new "pre-action protocols", setting out what information the parties should

give one another about their cases and on what time scale. These would encourage openness, co-operation and early settlement where possible. Information would be provided on other ways of resolving a dispute — "alternative dispute resolution" — and legal aid would be provided for such methods.

At pre-trial hearings, courts will encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution and will take into account any unreasonable refusal to try it.

An important proposal is the opportunity for a person bringing a claim to make an offer to settle all or part of the dispute. If the defendant refuses but the offer is matched or exceeded at trial, the claimant will be able to recoup extra interest on his damages.

This will be 25 per cent, on top of the normal interest rate payable, for damages up to £10,000; 15 per cent for damages of £10,000-£50,000; and 5 per cent on damages above £50,000.

Lord Woolf said: "If an insurance company is faced with a reasonable offer to settle a claim of £10,000 and they know that if they don't they could pay the total damages plus 35 per cent interest, they will settle."

When cases do go to trial, all proceedings will be started in the same way under one set of rules. At present there are eight ways of commencing proceedings. All cases will proceed according to fixed timetables monitored by the courts.

Instead of both parties automatically instructing their own expert witnesses, a single expert appointed by both parties will be used where possible.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has already lifted the small claims court limit to £3,000. On the fast track for handling most disputes up to £10,000, cases will be heard within a tight timetable of 30 weeks. Legal fees will be limited to a guideline maximum of £2,500. More than that would not be recoverable by the winning party. Trials will normally last no more than three hours, and an absolute maximum of one day.

The courts will apply strict sanctions to stop "game playing" and to punish litigants who do not comply with procedures or timetables. These will include striking out an entire claim or part of it; ordering costs to be paid immediately; and imposing a higher rate of interest on costs.

Lord Mackay, prepared way on smaller claims

JUDGES AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Three or four new civil trial centres in the regions, with a senior civil judge heading each centre and its satellite courts, are envisaged under the reforms. These centres will be run in a new partnership between judges and court administrators. Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, has been appointed Head of Civil Justice and he will have overall responsibility for the new system. The report recommends radical changes in the work of judges, with a programme to retrain them for their new task of hands-on management of cases. They will be encouraged to concentrate on fewer areas of work, such as medical negligence or housing, without becoming single-subject specialists.

At the heart of the reforms is a technological revolution. Judges will be able to follow and manage cases in the county courts by computer. They would be given more administrative assistance from clerks so they can carry out their judicial tasks and more time for reading. Lord Woolf makes no estimate of the costs, but said yesterday that although it would "not be peanuts", much of it would derive from redeployment of existing funds and that fewer and shorter trials would mean savings. "The costs should not be exaggerated," he said. Computerisation of the courts, which is now being prepared, would free court staff of much routine work and enable them to help judges.

LITIGANTS

Litigants will have far greater control over the pace and costs of proceedings. At the outset, lawyers will have to tell them of charges and the basis for charging. They will also be told of other methods to resolve the dispute. In complex cases, litigants will attend "management conferences" to decide how the case will be run and the central issues. This would enable them to make better-informed decisions and exert more control over what is done on their behalf. Lord Woolf said. When costs orders are made because of a breach of a court order or timetable, the litigant would be sent the order so he is aware of his right to apply to recover the costs from his lawyer. Courts will also provide more help to litigants through advice schemes.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

A specialist court to handle medical negligence cases is proposed, with expert judges sitting at the High Court in London and around the country. Lord Woolf says that many medical negligence claims would be too complex and lengthy for the new fast-track system, for disputes concerning less than £10,000, and the "case management" approach. He suggests a pilot study to look at ways of litigating smaller claims. The report says there must also be a more co-operative approach between claimants and defendants and suggests a new umbrella organisation to promote this. Lord Woolf says solicitors must advise would-be litigants on alternatives, such as mediation and the NHS Ombudsman.

HOUSING

Housing cases should be handled by specialist judges who should visit council estates as part of their training. Challenges to decisions by local authorities on homelessness, which can at present be made only by way of judicial review in the High Court in London, should be dealt with locally by county courts. The report also calls for a two-stage procedure for rent possession actions. The first would lead to a court order for repayment of arrears without a hearing. Non-compliance would lead to a hearing stage, which could result in a possession order. It recommends quicker procedures to evict anti-social tenants, with better protection for witnesses scared to testify because of intimidation threats.

MULTIPARTY ACTIONS

A contingency legal-aid fund financed by claimants is proposed for multiparty actions brought by large-scale accident or drug victims. The fund could be started by the Government, then draw income, perhaps as a percentage levy on successful claimants. It would be available to other multiparty litigants, not just those with incomes low enough to qualify for legal aid. A single "managing" judge would be appointed to handle any multiparty action from the start, with help from a lawyer who is an expert in the field acting as a deputy. In some cases a legally aided person's liability for costs could be fixed in advance for the entire case. In return, they would contribute to the fund at key stages of the proceedings.

Leading article, page 21

LEGAL COSTS

The present civil justice system benefits lawyers more than clients, with legal costs often exceeding the value of a claim, according to a survey commissioned for the Woolf report.

Among low-value claims, the average costs consistently amounted to more than 100 per cent of the value of the claim itself. In the next band — cases involving between £12,500 and £25,000 — average costs ranged from 40 per cent to 95 per cent of the value of the claim. "To put it another way, the present system provides higher benefits to lawyers than to their clients," the report says. "It is only when the claim value is over £50,000 that the average combined costs of the parties are likely to represent less than the claim."

The proposals to turn judges into trial managers, controlling costs and the pace of litigation, is expected to tackle high costs. The survey also highlights the second main defect of the system: delay. Most cases lasted 20 to 35 months, but personal injury cases had a median period of 54 months, and medical negligence cases 61 months.

The report expresses concern that if the case is simple and legally aided the time is even longer. The longest cases were the 54 per cent which settled out of court, taking between 42 and 48 months. Those which went to trial — 25 per cent of the sample — took an average of 25 months.

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BY DAVID CHARTER AND PETER FOSTER

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TWA tape points to bombing, says Lockerbie expert

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER FBI chief said yesterday that the unexplained sound recorded in the cockpit on TWA Flight 800 bore all the hallmarks of the Lockerbie disaster and indicated an abrupt systems failure caused by a bomb.

A statement by Oliver Revell, who led the Pan Am Flight 103 investigation in 1988, came as divers located two engines from the TWA aircraft on the seabed off the coast of Long Island. At the same time, Louis Freeh, the FBI director, hastily arranged a trip to New York for briefings and what was described as a "pep talk" for agents now involved in a worldwide criminal search for possible culprits.

Officially, the investigation team headed by the National Transportation Safety Board continued to say that a missile attack or a mechanical failure were still being treated as possible reasons for the accident in which all 230 passengers and crew died last week.

However, Mr Revell, the former deputy director of operations at the FBI who supervised the Lockerbie investigation, said the unusual sound at the end of the TWA voice recording appeared to match a noise he had heard six years ago. "It seems to me to be very similar," said Mr

Revell. "What was on the tape of TWA Flight 800 is certainly indicative of a catastrophic failure, probably caused by an explosive device inside or outside the aircraft."

The Pan Am cockpit recorder had ended in a sudden shrill noise, the signal of a total and abrupt shutdown of the Boeing 747's systems. Mr Revell suggested that the Flight 800 tragedy was caused by a bigger bomb than in the Lockerbie case "or it was strategically placed near the fuel tanks are."

Investigators hope the two engines discovered yesterday may provide further clues about the disaster. Cranes were expected by last night to have recovered the large turbines, weighing between 7,000 and 9,000lbs, and the safety board said experts were ready to start an analysis.

The FBI played down the sudden visit by Mr Freeh to New York and said the special briefings for the director did not mean the bureau was ready to declare the crash had been caused by a bomb.

Nevertheless, as soon as the jet went down, the CIA activated its counter-terrorist centre, the National Security Agency began reviewing electronic intercepts and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force estab-

lished its command posts. "You can't wait until there's proof of sabotage to begin an investigation," said James Kallstrom, the assistant FBI director at the scene. "Because if I do have a terrorist here, it's another day's head start that this individual has."

□ **Lawsuits possible:** Relatives of the TWA crash victims are considering suing the airline for negligence in the belief that the plane was bombed, and some have already hired lawyers who worked on the Lockerbie case.

Andrew Siben, a Long Island lawyer, said that five families had contacted him, accusing TWA of failing to take adequate security measures to prevent a bomb being placed on the plane. Mr Siben said his prospective clients wanted the "dust to settle" before filing suit, but added that he thought the relatives could establish TWA was guilty of "wilful misconduct" if a security breach were found.

Lee Kreindler, the leading lawyer in the Lockerbie litigation, has already been hired by the families of five victims of the TWA crash. Mr Kreindler said he was not convinced that TWA Flight 800 had been brought down by a bomb, and thought mechanical failure was more likely.

Fear rules Burundi as Hutus cower in capital

FROM SAM KILEY IN Bujumbura

"WE cannot go out. If the Tutsis recognise you as coming from Kamege, it's over for you," said Ferdinand, a Hutu refugee living with 3,500 others of his tribe in a former mental asylum effectively under siege in Burundi's capital, itself an ethnic enclave for Tutsis in a country in which everyone is surrounded by fear.

Yesterday Major Pierre Buyoya, who seized the presidency in an internationally condemned Tutsi-led military coup on Thursday, did nothing to reduce the terror at the heart of Burundi. He promised: "We are going to be very, very strict."

"A lack of strictness is what has brought us to this point and we are not going to allow it to go on," he told a hall filled with his gloriously dressed Tutsi hardline supporters.

For them, President Buyoya offered a clear plan to do away with an ineffective government under his deposed Hutu predecessor Sylvestre Ntibunganya, and allow the army to battle with the Hutus.

"We have been subjected to a genocide. Now the army will be able to combat the killers effectively," said Colonel Longin Minali after President Buyoya's speech.

Burundi's Tutsi minority — 15 per cent of the population — has been steadily eroded by massacres at the hands of Hutus since widespread slaughter in 1993 after the army's murder of the first Hutu president. However, Hutus have also been killed in large numbers by the army.

"The Tutsis want to kill us all, or trample us into submission. They cannot get over their sense of racial superiority, and want to have a mono-ethnic state," Ferdinand said.

The putsch against the coalition Government of Hutu and Tutsi parties has been received with delight by



President Buyoya, guarded by a Tutsi soldier, at a press conference yesterday

the Tutsis of Bujumbura, who have lived under a night-time curfew for two years and have grown used to an isolated life in the lakeside town — which is fed by Hutu farmers who dare enter the city market only in daylight, and flee to the surrounding hills by night to avoid being caught by Tutsi vigilantes.

Many have no idea that rural Tutsis have to live in camps guarded by the army while Hutus camp in the bush and farm fearfully when they are able to avoid military

patrols. The Hutus now in the Johnson psychiatric hospital were driven out of the Kamege Hutu ghetto in a series of army attacks two years ago, and are the only members of their tribe who dare live in the city.

"Buyoya is President of Bujumbura only. His power does not extend beyond the city limits. He is not the President of Burundi because the country has become ungovernable. The only way to put an end to the killings is to negotiate," said a former

chemistry teacher, who fled to the Johnson clinic in fear of his own high school students.

More than 150,000 Burundians on both sides have been killed since 1993, provoking calls at the United Nations and Organisation of African Unity for a peacekeeping force. So far there have been no offers of troops by Western nations, but it appears that Ugandan, Tanzanian and Ethiopian soldiers may be sent in.

Leading article, page 21

Thatcher admirers will sail true blue waters

BY TOM RHODES

OLD habits die hard for faithful Republican followers of Baroness Thatcher, who will join the former Prime Minister on board a yacht off the coast of South Carolina next month for a brief shot of true conservatism before heading to their party's national convention in San Diego.

General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Caspar Weinberger, the former Defence Secretary, are to accompany Sir Denis and Lady Thatcher on *The Highlander*, the luxurious 151ft cruiser owned by Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher.

The Margaret Thatcher Foundation, for security reasons, is guarded about their mentor's latest American visit but said that she had been invited as a guest of Mr Forbes and his wife, Sabina. Robert Higdon, the foundation's American director, said: "It's a private holiday and the foundation is not involved. But I imagine the conversation may concern current events."

General Powell will welcome the opportunity to dine with the woman he has admired for so long. The general has accepted a prime speaking slot on the first night of the convention to outline his vision of America in the 21st century, a subject on which Lady Thatcher is rarely silent.

For his part, Mr Forbes may wish to discuss his distinctly Thatcherite plan for a flat tax which initially had proved so popular when he ran as a presidential candidate during the Republican primaries before withdrawing in March.

The former Prime Minister, who effectively endorsed the brief Forbes candidacy, was a guest on board *The Highlander* in 1993 and he attended her 70th birthday celebration in Washington last year. A picture of the two was given pride of place at his campaign headquarters in New Jersey.

Air disaster novel revealed

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE crash of TWA Flight 800 has forced the disclosure of one of publishing's best-kept secrets: the subject of Michael Crichton's next blockbuster.

The Knopf publishing house announced a "new novel" by the *Jurassic Park* author in its autumn catalogue without giving any details of the topic. The book is due to be published in America on De-

cember 5 with an initial print run of two million.

The publicity about the TWA crash has prompted Knopf to reveal that the subject of Crichton's book will be an air disaster, told through the eyes of a television news team investigating the cause of a crash. Titled *Airframe*, the novel will delve into the airliner parts industry.

Crichton has a knack of anticipating headlines — although dinosaurs have yet to

return. *Rising Sun*, about malfeasance by a Japanese firm in California, appeared in the midst of trade tension between the US and Japan.

Disclosure, the story of a male employee who is harassed by his female boss, was published just as sexual harassment became a hot topic on television talk shows.

"It's uncanny how Michael does this," Sonny Mehta, Knopf's editor-in-chief, told *Publisher's Weekly*.

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\$25,000+	4.85	4.95	3.88	3.94	4.71	4.80
\$10,000+	4.61	4.70	3.69	3.74	4.47	4.55
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\$10,000+	3.80	-	3.04	-	3.65	-
\$5,000+	3.05	-	2.44	-	2.90	-
\$500+	2.75	-	2.20	-	2.60	-
Monthly Income Option						
\$50,000+	4.41	4.50	3.53	3.59	4.27	4.35
\$25,000+	4.22	4.30	3.38	3.43	4.07	4.15
\$10,000+	3.74	3.80	2.99	3.03	3.59	3.65
\$5,000+	3.01	3.05	2.41	2.43	2.86	2.90
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LIQUID GOLD*						
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\$25,000+	3.00	-	2.40	-	2.85	-
\$10,000+	2.60	-	2.08	-	2.45	-
\$5,000+	2.40	-	1.92	-	2.25	-
\$500+	2.15	-	1.72	-	2.00	-
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Monthly Income						
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\$50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75
Monthly Savings \$500+	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91
\$50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75
7 Day Xtra \$200+	1.35	1.35	1.08	1.08	1.35	1.35
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)	2.75	2.77	2.20	2.21	2.75	2.77
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)	2.25	2.26	1.80	1.81	2.25	2.26
5 Year Term Share	2.30	2.31	1.84	1.85	2.30	2.31
Subscription Share	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91
Matured Subscription Share	1.90	1.91	1.52	1.53	1.90	1.91

Trinity Road, Halifax.



27th July 1996

Mandela sacks deputy minister

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela yesterday dismissed an outspoken deputy minister in a move that has again raised concern about his style of leadership and the commitment of South Africa's ruling African National Congress to its professed ideals of transparency and accountability.

Mr Mandela, in a short written statement, said that "after due consultation" he

had decided to relieve General Bantu Holomisa of his responsibilities as Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. No reasons were given. Parks Mankahlan, the President's spokesman, said Mr Mandela was not compelled to give reasons.

One ANC source said the sacking was the culmination of a series of "acts of political indiscretion". A party maverick on the populist wing of the ANC, General Holomisa, the former military ruler of the

apartheid-era Transkei homeland, is a close ally of the President's former wife, Winnie, and has clashed publicly with Mr Mandela several times.

However, recent bribe accusations against Stella Sigcau, formerly a Prime Minister of Transkei and now Public Affairs Minister, appear to have precipitated the general's dismissal. The ANC reacted furiously to his allegations.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JULY 27 1996



Alan Sugar, left, and David Potter were unable to agree on a price for Amstrad. Mr Sugar said he was not now planning any new strategic moves



O'Reilly joins Mirror in bid for WP

By ERIC REGULY

THE Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers, the Irish media group controlled by Tony O'Reilly, the Heinz chairman, have joined forces to launch a bid for Pearson's Westminster Press division.

Westminster, the regional newspaper group that was placed on the auction block in June, was thought to have attracted no fewer than three bidders by yesterday's deadline.

The Mirror-Independent partnership is pitted against Newsquest, the regional newspaper company controlled by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the leveraged buyout expert in New York, and CnVn, the venture capital group.

Midland Independent Newspapers has ruled itself out of the running, although it said yesterday that it was keeping a close eye on the takeover.

Chris Oakley, chief executive of Midland, said: "We would be interested in some of the Westminster titles if the buyer decided to break up the company."

His comments came as Midland agreed to pay £12 million in cash for Newsquest's Midlands North division, which publishes seven free newspapers and four magazines with total annual turnover of £11.7 million.

Pearson, owner of the Financial Times, hopes to receive about £300 million for Westminster, whose newspapers include the Evening Argus in Brighton and The Northern Echo in Darlington. But analysts think the bids are unlikely to reach that price because many of the Westminster titles are rapidly losing circulation.

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Amstrad deal collapses as Psion walks away

By ERIC REGULY

ALAN SUGAR'S plan to sell Amstrad, the electronics group, to Psion collapsed late yesterday after the two companies failed to reach agreement on the price. Psion's decision to back out is a blow to Mr Sugar, who owns 36 per cent of Amstrad and stood to gain about £80 million from the takeover.

Psion, the palm-top computer maker best known for Series 3a organisers, and Amstrad had discussed a deal that valued Amstrad at no less than £230 million, equivalent to

200p a share. Psion, headed by David Potter, the South African-born chairman, gave no details about the price negotiations and insisted there was no room for compromise. It said: "Such discussions have now been terminated."

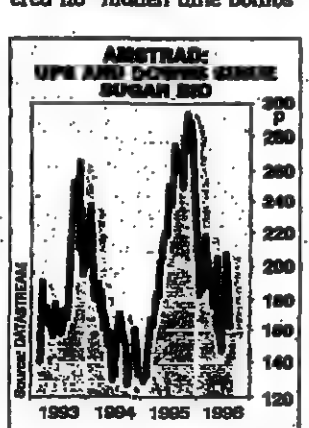
Amstrad shares plummeted from 189p to 160p on the news and continued to fall, reaching 154p, in after-market trading. They had been as high as 296p in the past year.

Psion's withdrawal came as a shock to Amstrad, which claimed that Psion never revealed the final price it was actually willing to offer, although it said it would not pay as much as 200p per share. This left Amstrad officials wondering how much Psion wanted the company in the first place. Mr Potter was not available for comment.

Mr Sugar, 49, Amstrad's founder and chairman, said: "They phoned us in the after-

noon and said they were willing to offer substantially less than the price they had originally agreed to pay, and that they knew we would reject a lower offer... I just think they got cold feet in the end."

Mr Sugar insisted that the due diligence process uncovered no "hidden time bombs"



or liabilities. "This company is in good shape, and we have £100 million in cash," he said.

Psion and Amstrad revealed that they were in talks on June 25. Psion was largely attracted to Amstrad's mobile phone subsidiary in Denmark. It wanted to adapt Dancall's digital GSM (global system for mobile) technology for its own products, which would allow the launch of the world's first practical wireless palm-top computers and personal organisers.

Mr Sugar agreed to restructure Amstrad to allow Psion to buy the divisions to which it was most attracted. Amstrad, agreed, for example, to transfer its loss-making consumer electronics business, called ACE, to Bescom, the phonemaker in which Amstrad has a 66 per cent stake. This will still go ahead.

Mr Sugar also agreed that he would resign from all the

positions he held at the company he founded 28 years ago. He would remain only as a consultant.

A Psion spokesman said that Psion would pursue other opportunities in an effort to get the digital communications technology it requires. Although takeovers are possible, it appears the company is just as likely to reach licensing agreements with mobile-phonemakers such as Nokia or Ericsson.

Amstrad, for its part, is not planning any new strategic moves. Mr Sugar said he will not solicit takeover offers in the wake of Psion's abrupt departure and intends to keep the company intact unless it receives an offer that is attractive to shareholders.

He does not think Amstrad and Psion will ever get together. He said: "It's best to call it a day. This has been a bit of a waste of time for all of us here."

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3073.3	(-11.4)
Yield	4.17%	(-5.27)
FT-SE All share	1824.11	(-5.27)
Nikkei	21124.90	(+241.06)
Dow Jones	8464.18	(+42.17)
S&P Composite	635.63	(+4.88)

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5.1%)
Long Bond	5 7/8%	(5.7%)
Yield	7.04%	(7.02%)

3-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5.1%)
Libor 3m	5 1/8%	(5.1%)
3-month bill	10 1/2%	(10.5%)

New York	1,554.4	(1,557.5)
London	1,555.4	(1,557.1)
DM	2,302.0	(2,302.0)
FF	7,811.0	(7,804.4)
SF	1,881.1	(1,879.5)
Yen	108.39	(108.30)
S Index	85.0	(84.5)

London	1,482.8	(1,477.5)
DM	5,033.5	(5,007.5)
FF	1,210.8	(1,205.8)
Yen	108.39	(108.30)
S Index	96.2	(96.0)

Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$18.40	(\$18.85)
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London close	\$385.15	(\$385.05)
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Pay protest

United Utilities, the multi-utility at the centre of an executive pay storm, faced unprecedented shareholder anger over its long-term incentive plan. A number of institutional shareholders, along with small shareholders attending the annual meeting, voted against the plan. Page 26

Weak growth leaves rate cut option open

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UK ECONOMIC growth was unexpectedly weak in the second quarter, leaving open the possibility of a further cut in interest rates next week.

GDP rose 0.4 per cent compared with the previous quarter, taking the annual growth rate to 1.8 per cent, according to preliminary data published by the Office for National Statistics yesterday.

The City had been expecting GDP growth of about 2.2 per cent and economists concluded that the sluggish growth rate may allow Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to cut rates after his next meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England on July 30. But

most economists believe that the Chancellor will wait until autumn to make any further rate cuts as there is a danger that rekindled inflation may force rate increases before the election.

The Chancellor also received a stark warning from the IMF that Britain's recent "enviable" economic record is under threat from the overshoot in the public sector borrowing requirement and rising consumer spending. The IMF, in its annual review of the UK economy, urged the Chancellor to rule out any further tax and interest rate cuts, although it forecasts GDP growth of 3 per cent and

an inflation rate of 2.5 per cent for 1997. The Government blamed the poor figures on the beef export ban, which caused an estimated 0.1 per cent fall in GDP. But manufacturing output also remained flat and construction fell for the second quarter in succession.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, head of economics at Chantrey Vellacott, said GDP would have to grow 1.4 per cent in the third quarter and 1.6 per cent in the final quarter to meet the Government's revised forecast of 2.5 per cent. The Treasury said growth was set to accelerate, but, with companies still destocking, economists expect the target to be missed.

Generator warns of dip in earnings

By GEORGE SIVILL

NATIONAL Power warned shareholders at its annual meeting yesterday that first-half earnings "would be somewhat less than in the comparable period last year".

But shares in the privatised electricity generator rose 4 1/2p to 383 1/2p because analysts had anticipated National Power's problems.

The company is in the fourth year of tightening five-year contracts to buy coal and sell electricity, with the result that guaranteed sales of electricity are falling.

Disposals will help to bias profits towards the second half. The first-half trading period is a week shorter than last year's.

Lloyds TSB staff in the money

By ROBERT MILLER

STAFF at Lloyds TSB may share up to £100 million in year-end bonuses as a result of a sharp rise in profits.

The bank yesterday announced a 12 per cent rise in profits to £1.14 billion for the six months to June 30 and said £50 million has been set aside for its 85,000 employees.

At the present rate of profit growth, achieved largely on the back of the £794 million contribution from retail financial services, the £50 million bonus pot could double by the end of the year. Bonus payments are scaled according to annual

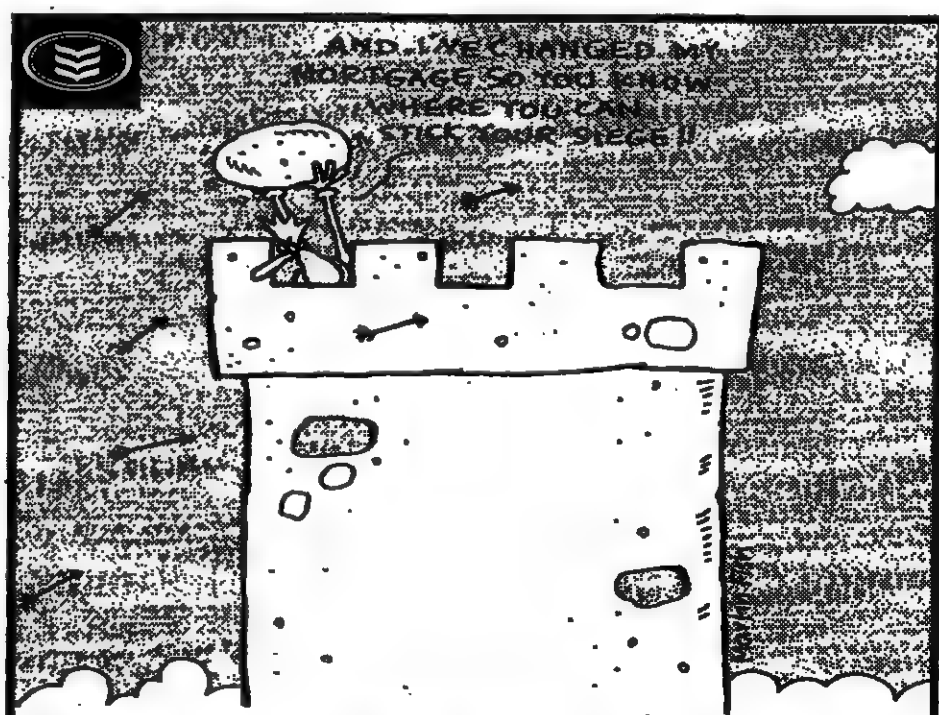
salary. Underlying pre-tax profits at Lloyds TSB, which formally merged last December, rose 32 per cent in spite of a £68 million "goodwill" charge arising from the sale of Hill Samuel's corporate finance arm in May. The group said it was on target to make savings from the merger worth £300 million by 1999.

The interim dividend is raised 15 per cent to 4.2p a share, and represents about one third of the likely full-year payout.

Sir Brian Pittman, group chief executive, said that profits in the comparable period last year included £193 million from the disposal of stakes in Standard Chartered and 3i, the investment trust.

Sir Brian also said that further job losses in the group and across the sector as a whole were inevitable. Sir Robin Ibbotson, group chairman, said he hoped to make an announcement about successors to himself and Sir Brian within several months. He added: "It is important to get it right rather than settle it quickly." It is believed that Sir Brian will replace Sir Robin as group chairman. Contenders for the chief executive's job include Peter Ellwood, Sir Brian's deputy. Lloyds TSB shares closed down 8 1/2p at 382 1/2p.

Tempus, page 28



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From the wireless age of Marconi to multimedia

One hundred years ago, on July 27, 1896, Guglielmo Marconi gave the first public demonstration of wireless transmission. From a building on the site now occupied by BT's HQ by St Paul's in the City, he sent a message just 300 yards across the ether and launched the wireless age.

How could he have known then that his brilliant invention would form the basis of a worldwide mass entertainment industry? Not even the most far-sighted observer could have predicted what the development of wireless technology would lead to: news, information, entertainment and all the rest, broadcast on TV and radio to every part of the globe.

A plaque at BT Centre marks his achievement. I find it both stimulating and faintly alarming. Every morning, as I arrive, it reminds me of the opportunities, issues and challenges involved in understanding, developing and managing new technology. And it is a major part of my job to understand, confront, and exploit the

opportunities, issues and challenges presented by the long-awaited and much-discussed multimedia revolution.

Microprocessor performance doubles every 18 months or so. There is probably more computing power in your personal computer than NASA had available when it sent men to the Moon. These increases in the capacity and reductions in the cost of computing and communications make it possible to transmit and manipulate information, be it voice, data, text, video or whatever, in greater quantities, at higher speeds and at lower costs, than anyone could have imagined only a few years ago.

So we do not need to wait for the next brilliant invention, we can do a great deal with the technology we have. Business, education and training and entertainment are areas where the impact is already being felt. Recently BT and MCI, our US partner, announced the first fully managed and reliable Internet service for businesses. Schools, colleges and universities already

have access to online information and learning systems. And BT has been test marketing interactive TV, which brings together phones and TV, giving viewers not only much greater control over what they watch, and when, but also access to banking and shopping facilities from their armchairs.

As technology advances, the range of things it makes possible will advance too. But the implications for customers and the industries that will supply them are much more difficult to predict. Who will be the customers? And what will they want? Who will be the suppliers? And what will they supply? In a world where a TV programme, phone call, tranche of business data, novel, educational text or video, can be sent down an optic fibre or across a satellite link in digital form, what will the computing, telecommunications, publishing and broadcasting industries look like? Will they even be separate industries at all? There are two ways of looking at the future impact of technology on our everyday lives.

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Sir Peter Bonfield

On the one hand, there is what one might call the "nutty professor" school that takes the view that everything is theoretically possible, and even some things that aren't inevitably happen. The alternative view could best be summed up by the phrase, "If God had meant us to fly he would never have given us the railways." Oddly enough, this is the view that has, more often than not, greeted developments in

communications technology. For example, when the phone was first developed in the last century, people could see that it was interesting but no one was quite sure how useful it would be. An eminent figure in the Post Office at the time expressed the view that it would not have a future because there were already plenty of telegram boys. And if the phone wasn't for messages what was it for? Ironically, in the light of current developments, one of the earliest services offered was direct relays of plays and concerts to the home. Who says history doesn't repeat itself?

The first large computers were developed for code-breaking in the Second World War. Towards the end of the war the question arose as to whether they had any peacetime uses. Someone, working on the then current assumption that the sole use of computers was to do big sums, worked out that the UK as a whole would never need more than six computers at any one time and so all talk of a computer industry was misplaced.

And so it goes on. In the late 1940s, doubts were expressed as to whether TV would supplant radio as the main broadcast medium. The argument was that you could do something else while listening to the radio, but to watch TV you had to sit down and look at it, and people would never get used to that. We can learn an important lesson from all of this. These predictions were wrong largely because each new development was seen as a replacement for something that existed rather than as a way of doing new things.

What was missing was any idea that technology would become more widely available — would become accepted, perhaps even welcomed, as part of everyday life. If we, in turn, think of multimedia applications only as a way of doing what we do now, only better, we are likely to end up with a view of the future as narrow, uninspired and wrong as those I have described.

The key question is, therefore, not "what is this instead of?" or even "what can we as suppliers do now

that we couldn't do before?" but "what can our customers do now that they couldn't do before?" What difference will it make to our lives and our world if, and when, every child has access to every book and every conversation can take place face to face? What are the implications for the way we work, the way we educate ourselves, the way we organise our society?

The wider dissemination of information opens the door to profound developments. Already the Internet is throwing into sharper focus a whole range of issues: censorship, intellectual property, artistic freedom, the right to privacy. How, and in what forums, these issues will be dealt with is one of the key questions we all face.

If Marconi were to return to haunt BT Centre, I hope he would be pleased with the way that we have built on what he started. And I suspect he would recognise a company, an industry and a society on the brink of enormous change.

□ Sir Peter Bonfield is chief executive of BT

United board wins pay vote despite shareholder anger

By Christine Buckley

UNITED Utilities, the multi-utility at the centre of an executive pay storm, yesterday faced unprecedented shareholder anger over its long-term incentive plan.

Shareholders owning more than 68 million shares voted by proxy against the plan and investors at the annual meeting in Manchester forced a count on the matter. Three hundred and twenty-two shareholders opposed the scheme while 180 endorsed it. But, with the backing of 129.5 million shares, the controversial incentive plan, which can deliver rewards of 87 per cent on executive salaries, will proceed. On top of that, short-term incentives offer bonuses of 40 per cent of salary. However, with such a level of opposition United is likely to face pressure to modify its plans.

Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, told one shareholder

Shareholders of Hyder, the Welsh super utility, endorsed a new package of executives' perks. Share options are to be replaced by a long-term incentive scheme based on the company's performance. Unless Hyder reaches 125th position in the FTSE top 250 in three years, directors will get no bonuses. If the company gets to 62nd position or above, they may receive 50 per cent of their basic salary in shares, held in trust over three years.

who complained that the package was excessive: "You're just going to have to accept this if you want a good company that is well run and if you want good people running the company."

United came under fire from PIRC, the investment research group, which had advised its institutional clients to veto the incentive plan. Paul Marsland, representing PIRC,

said that the plan should be rejected because it made no recognition of customer service achievements. Performance targets should be linked to customer service because the company was a monopoly, he added.

The plan, known as L-Tip, is linked to United's performance against FTSE companies. It has been attacked by several institutional shareholders for not exerting sufficient demands on executive performance. However, Sir Desmond argued that the executive pay changes "tie even more strongly the remuneration of executives to your best interests".

After the meeting Brian Staples, chief executive, said that the company wanted to achieve shareholder consensus and would try to accommodate modifications. It emerged yesterday that under the scheme, executives would be required to own shares to the value of a year's salary.

Mr Staples, who was awarded a 27 per cent pay increase to £300,000 recently, was unrepentant about his pay level although he conceded that there should be a debate on the level of remuneration. He added: "I've worked all my life to acquire the skills to be a chief executive of a FTSE company and I'm not bashful."

The long-term incentive scheme runs over three years. Executives will also benefit from short-term incentives stretching over a year.



David Parker, left, operations director, and Mike Darrington, managing director, savour rising profits

Gregg lifts profit and beats beef scare

By Fraser Nelson

GREGG, the baking group, avoided a direct hit from the BSE scare by sharply expanding its line of non-beef products in the 24 weeks to June 15, lifting pre-tax profits 5.2 per cent to £4.26 million.

Heavy marketing of its cheese and onion pasties helped to offset Scotland's desertion of its national Scotch pie, sales of which fell two thirds after the beef warning. The pie, regarded as Scotland's second national dish, had previously accounted for 10 per cent of its Scottish turnover. Sales of Cornish pasties and corned beef snacks were also hit.

Of the 420 Bakers Oven shops bought in 1994, 241 have now been converted to the Gregg's Firstons or Braggs brand. This division saw volume growth of 2.1 per cent in the period, against 0.5 per cent volume growth from the Gregg's fascia, which is more reliant on beef-based savouries.

Group capital expenditure grew to £5.2 million over the period, due to the refurbishment and refitting operations. Its cash pile grew to £18 million, a rise of £800,000 since the year before.

Overall, turnover was 8.7 per cent ahead at £105 million. The group said that the milder summer had made for good trading and that sales in savouries were already picking up as effects of the BSE scare died down.

The interim dividend was 9p (8p), paid from earnings of 25.2p per share (23.3p).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Byte deal may save computer shop jobs

UP TO 180 jobs feared lost after the collapse of Escom UK, the computer retail group, may be saved after it emerged that 42 Escom concessions in Office World shops have been bought by another retail group. Byte Computer Superstores, part of Specialist Computer Holdings, based in Birmingham, said that it had signed a deal with Office World, the out-of-town superstore group, to take over the concessions.

About 850 jobs were lost this week after Escom's receivers, Deloitte & Touche, closed the chain of 113 stores and 43 concessions after failing to find a buyer. Escom UK was hit by the problems of its German parent company, which filed for bankruptcy in Germany earlier this month. Escom had already closed 74 UK stores and made 40 head office staff redundant. The company launched in the UK in 1993 and expanded its chain of stores from 27 to more than 200 after the purchase of the former Rumbelows shops in May 1995.

Somerfield delays debut

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket group, is to delay its stock market debut by one week, to August 9, after its decision to cut the issue price from 160p to 145p. The price had been cut once from the 180p to 190p range. The 145p share price values the company at £435 million. The reductions in price came after buying resistance from institutions and the retail market. It emerged yesterday that less than a third of the 60 million shares intended for small investors had been taken up.

Greenock to lose jobs

MORE than 200 jobs are to go at an electronics plant in Scotland by the end of the year. National Semiconductors (UK) of Greenock blamed the redundancies on a worldwide slowdown in the demand for microchips. The American-owned company said it hoped to reduce the workforce through voluntary redundancies. It is continuing with a £35 million expansion plan at the site and investment in new equipment in expectation of a market upturn next year.

Investment in Wales up

FOREIGN companies invested £910.3 million in Wales during 1995-96, up 44 per cent on the previous year, according to the Welsh Development Agency's annual report. Assisted projects created or safeguarded 15,230 jobs during the year, of which 80 per cent were offered by overseas companies, which now employ a third of the principality's manufacturing workforce. The WDA said it exceeded capital investment and job creation targets set by the Welsh Office.

P&O shows the scars

FIGURES from P&O show passenger traffic on its key Dover-to-Calais route had fallen 14 per cent so far this year. But statistics for the second quarter reveal the impact of competition from Eurotunnel had eased compared with the first three months of the year. P&O said it carried just under 4.1 million passengers in the first six months (4.8 million). Tourist vehicles fell more sharply, by 16.5 per cent to 700,173 (£83,940). Freight units fell 6 per cent to 210,794 (£215,190).

Thames seeks disposal

BLACK AND VEATCH, the US engineering company, has emerged as the likely buyer of Thames Water's Utag and PWT design and construction businesses. The UK utility company is considering the sale of the businesses after a wide-ranging strategic review of activities outside the core water and sewage operations that was completed in March. Utag, which is based in Germany, and PWT, based in Britain, were acquired as part of the company's ill-fated diversification.

Skipton buys Connell

SKIPTON Building Society has acquired a controlling interest in the 139-strong Connell estate agency chain, together with its financial services arm, from Scottish Widows for £3 million. Connell, which incurred a £2 million loss last year, employs 900 and is most strongly represented in the South and the Midlands.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.19	15.89
Belgium Fr	50.43	48.13
Canada Cdn	2.549	2.08
Cyprus Cyp	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr	9.46	8.65
Finland Mk	7.55	6.90
France Fr	8.22	7.57
Germany DM	2.48	2.25
Greece Dr	382	357
Hong Kong S	12.89	11.56
Iceland ISK	113	93
Ireland P	1.01	0.93
Israel Sh	5.32	4.67
Italy Lit	2474	2319
Japan Yen	162.50	148.90
Netherlands Gld	0.595	0.540
Norway Nkr	2.736	2.508
Portugal Esc	2.39	2.17
Spain Ptas	166.64	152.50
Sweden Swk	10.84	10.04
Switzerland Fr	2.01	1.83
Turkey Lira	132770	124770
USA \$	1.655	1.525

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The brain teasers

When Bill Castell, chief executive of the healthcare company Amersham International, was looking for a new finance director he turned to a professional psychologist for advice...

Business Focus on the increasing use of psychologists in recruitment and assessment — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Inspec rights to fund Shell deal

By Carl Mortished

INSPEC has agreed to buy Shell Fine Chemicals for £200 million. The acquisitive chemical group, which last month issued a profits warning, is raising £101 million in a one-for-two rights issue at 180p.

Existing shares rose 1p to 223p. Inspec also announced half-year £15.7 million pre-tax profit, up from £13.8 million, and confirmed that its Antwerp operations, acquired from BP last year, had been affected by pressure on glycol margins and lower sales of ENB, a raw material for synthetic rubber.

John Hollowood, the Inspec chairman, said Shell Fine Chemicals would strengthen and diversify the Inspec portfolio, reducing its exposure to commodity chemicals, including glycol and ENB, from 30 per cent to 16 per cent of group profits. Shell said the busi-

nesses had a limited strategic fit within its core business.

Shell Fine Chemicals achieved sales of £166 million and a £27.5 million operating profit before exceptional costs last year, with 60 per cent contributed by its businesses in the UK, where it employs about 400 people.

The group of companies makes more than 100 products and is the world leader in para-Cresol, an intermediate chemical used in anti-oxidants such as BHT, a component of animal feeds. Shell Fine Chemicals is also the leading producer of Sulfonane, a solvent used in extracting impurities from natural gas. Shell Fine Chemicals also has operations on the Continent and in Chile and Brazil.

Tempos, page 28

Lex interims at eight-year high

By Fraser Nelson

LEX SERVICE, Britain's biggest motor dealer, yesterday reported its highest interim profits for eight years and named Andrew Harrison, currently a director at Courtalds Textiles, as its new chief executive.

Lex lifted pre-tax profits by 26 per cent to £27.7 million in the six months to June 30, which it said showed the first fruits of a £9.8 million restructuring. It has sold all but six of the 26 retail outlets that it put on the auction block in January, for an undisclosed sum.

Group sales were 5 per cent ahead at £812 million, helped by a first-time contribution of £69 million from Multipart, acquired last August. Earnings grew to 17p per share (14.4p), allowing a dividend of 6.4p (5.9p). The truck division was hit by the national slump

in demand, taking underlying profits down 26 per cent to £1.7 million. Profits in the forklift truck division fell slightly to £0.4 million.

Lex this week secured an outsourcing deal for the RAF's non-military cars, trucks and vans in the first mainland fleet contract agreed under the Private Finance Initiative. The deal is thought to be worth £355 million a year.

Lex Vehicle Leasing, half owned by Lombard North Central, is to buy 2,700 of the RAF's 20,000-strong "White" administration road fleet, taking its total vehicle count above 75,000. It will lease the vehicles back to the RAF, taking responsibility for their upkeep. The MoD said the move will save it £17 million a year.

Tempos, page 28

Civil servants suffer low morale despite shake-up

Treasury in the doldrums

By Alasdair M'URRAY

CIVIL SERVANTS at the Treasury continue to suffer low morale and lack faith in the department's leadership despite a shake-up in the department's organisation. But there has been a big improvement in levels of job satisfaction, relations with immediate managers and feelings about the reforms in general, according to an independent study of staff attitudes.

The study, carried out by International Survey Research, follows up an earlier poll conducted in 1994 shortly after Sir

Terry Burns, the department's Permanent Secretary, announced a re-organisation of management structure.

Roger Maitland, managing director of ISR, said the discrepancy in attitudes was common in an organisation undergoing major change where staff often band together, improving some general team attitudes, but feel alienated from senior management. Mr Maitland added: "In some areas these results are as good as those in high performing organisations. In other areas there has been less improvement but this is a normal pattern for organisations in transition."

Reforms include cutting the number of pay bands from 27 to 5 and reducing staff by 330 to 925 since 1994. As a result, the Treasury has cut running costs by about 14 per cent in real terms to £57.3 million since 1993-94. But the number of respondents who believe morale is high has risen only from 7 per cent to 8 per cent during this period, while 14 per cent were favourable about the department's leadership, a rise of just 3 percentage points.

Sir Terry said: "The results of the survey are heartening. But there are still many areas of concern including career development and some other personnel issues."

Current Savings Rates.

From close of business on 26th July 1996 the following rates of interest are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	RATE PER ANNUM	GROSS %	NET%
60 Day Notice Account** - Paid Annually			
£50,000+	4.75	3.80	
£25,000-49,999	4.50	3.60	
£10,000-24,999	4.10	3.28	
£5,000-9,999	3.25	2.60	
£500-4,999	2.90	2.32	
£1-499	0.50	0.40	
60 Day Notice Account** - Paid Monthly			
£50,000+	3.75	3.00	
£25,000-49,999	3.50	2.80	
£10,000-24,999	3.10	2.48	
£5,000-9,999	2.25	1.80	
£500-4,999	1.90	1.52	
£1-499	0.50	0.40	
Flexible Savings Account			
£50,000+	3.75	3.00	
£25,000-49,999	3.50	2.80	
£10,000-24,999	3.00	2.40	
£5,000-9,999	2.50	2.00	
£2,000-4,999	2.40	1.92	
£1,000-1,999	2.30	1.84	
£500-999	2.20	1.76	
£1-499	0.50	0.40	
Interest Cheque Account			
£10,000+	1.75	1.40	
£5,000-9,999	0.50	0.40	
£1-4,999	0.25	0.20	
FirstSave			
	3.00	2.40	
TESSA***			
	6.25	N/A	

TSB We want you to say YES

All rates are variable. Interest paid annually unless otherwise stated.
**Gross rate does not take account of the deduction of income tax at the Lower Rate of 20%.
***Savings rates of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn, unless the remaining balance is £5,000.00 or more.
****Withdrawals in excess of 80% of interest earned will result in loss of tax exempt status and the closure of the account.

TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: MARTIN BRACKENBURY

Travelling man revels in voyage of discovery

Marianne Curphey talks to a director of Britain's largest travel group who believes mass tourism can confer welcome benefits

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

BRITAIN'S annual holiday season is in full flow, raising the question of whether the most beautiful parts of the world can be saved from package tourists, fish-and-chip parlours, noisy bars and gift shops.

Martin Brackenbury, who runs Britain's largest travel group, thinks so. He believes that he has a neat way to work out whether tourism is destroying a region's culture — if tourists outnumber residents by three to one, shops, bars and facilities then start to reflect the tastes of visitors, not locals.

A nice idea. But could such a simple equation have benefited Majorca, once an island of simple fishing villages, which grew during the 1970s and 1980s into one of the most popular holiday resorts in the Mediterranean?

Mr Brackenbury believes so, but then as director of development for Thomson — its travel empire spans tour operating, the Lunn Poly travel agency, Britannia charter airline and a domestic holiday cottage business — he is acutely aware of the need to defend the industry from the allegation that mass tourism wrecks havoc on a country's culture.

"Most local people in these resorts want change: they want the money to have a decent standard of living and to send their children to university," he says. "Our research shows that very few want to remain as they are: in Majorca it is the expatriates who now resist the growth of tourism," he says.

"I believe that local people should have the information about the changes that tourism will bring, and should be able to assess whether they want it or not."

"There are a lot of what I call do-gooders, the woolly sock brigade, who want to impose a status quo upon local people. At heart, they are neo-colonialists who do not want change."

He admits that mistakes were made in Majorca and that lessons have been learnt. The resort has recently undergone something of a renaissance: unsightly tower-blocks have been dismantled, trees have been planted and the beach has been cleared up. "Not a drop of raw sewage ends up in the sea," he says proudly. "The system has been completely overhauled."

It is a sensitive subject. The tourism versus culture debate has been raging within the travel industry for the past decade. Mr Brackenbury and his colleagues in the package-tour business pour scorn on the claims of the "green" lobby, which alleges that mass travel is rapidly turning the world into a global theme park for the entertainment of the wealthy at the expense of the poor.

Most people in resorts want change... few want to remain as they are

Pressure groups like Tourism Concern (TC) have been urging Britons to boycott Burma because of its human rights record. TC has drawn up a checklist of questions for travellers with a conscience to put to travel agents before they book: is the hotel taking water from local people, is the sanitation system adequate, are local people paid a decent wage?

Mr Brackenbury, on the other hand, believes travel can help to bring justice to light. As chairman of the Federation of Tour Operators, an organisation which represents UK travel companies, and president of the International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO), which brings together tour operators from around the world, he is more widely travelled than the average Briton.

"IFTO has over the years taken the view that it would make no judgment about the regimes and if people wanted to go to a particular country, they should be allowed to make that choice," Mr Brackenbury says. "Tourism has opened people's eyes to the world and helped to bring about changes. My personal view about Burma is that the Opposition leader is wrong: it is not possible to dictate what people see when they are there."

His theory of the benefit of change comes from 16 years in the travel industry and a degree in social anthropology from Cambridge. After working as a management consultant in the 1970s, he joined Thomson as personnel director in 1980 and worked his way up through the organisation, becoming director of development and human resources in 1989, a post that makes him joint number two in the company, under Paul Brett.

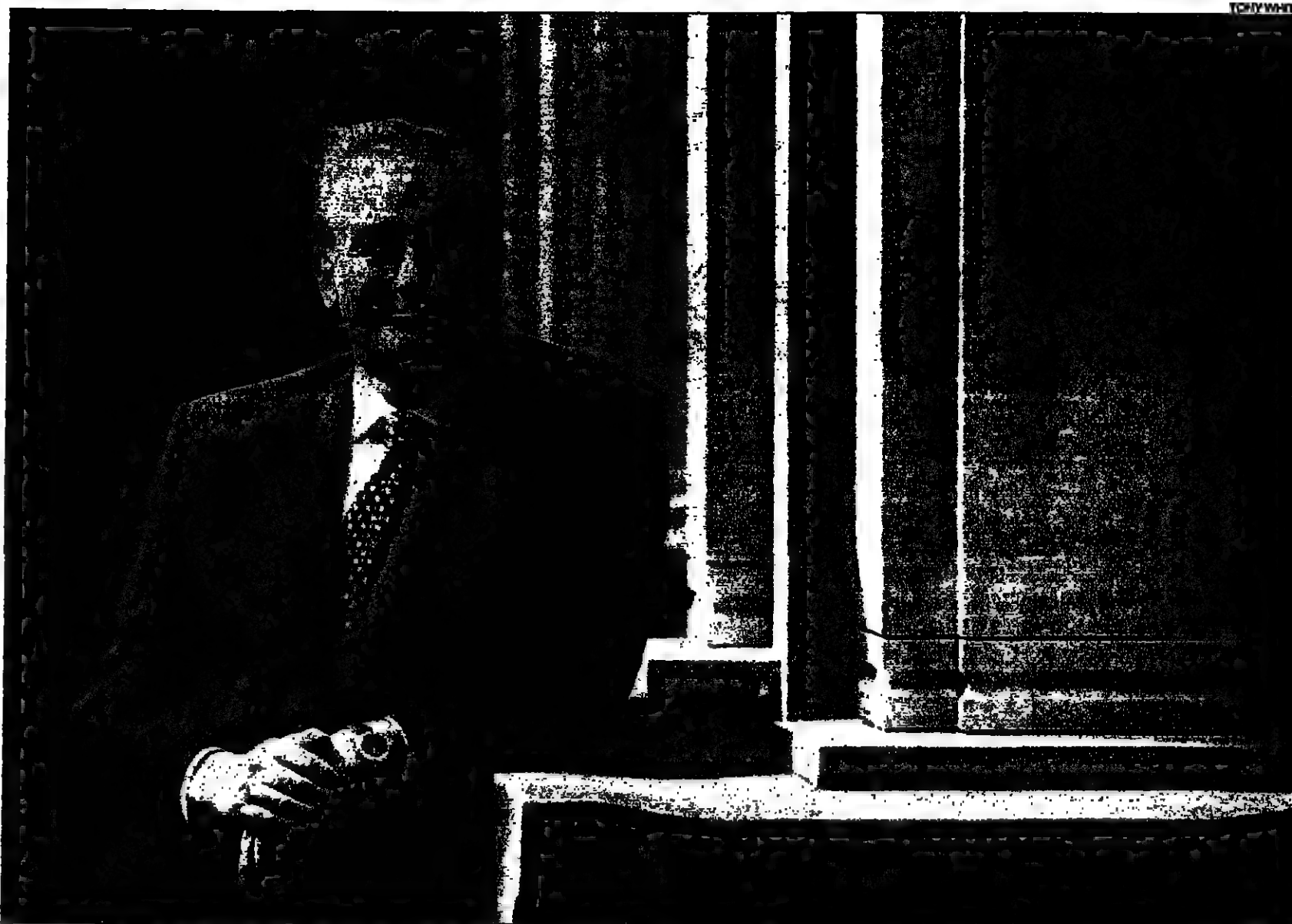
He is, he says, "reasonably well paid" for a job that takes him all round the globe on a regular basis. In fact, he is so used to travelling, that he often visits four countries in as many weeks. He has just returned from ministerial meetings in China and Mexico, where he spent hours with top-level officials and tourism representatives. Such trips, he says, often last just three days and leave him exhausted.

"It is incredibly tiring, but I carry on because I feel my work is effective and enjoyable. Sometimes though I feel I need a rest — this is not a rate of work one can keep up for ever. I think the effects of all this travelling will show up on photographs of me." He is 32, immaculately dressed, but certainly looking tired at our morning meeting, which he has managed to fit in around a hectic schedule in Britain that includes a day trip by air shuttle to the North of England where he is an external examiner for a university.

Then there is a dinner in the evening and a meeting at the House of Commons. When he does get time to relax, he spends it in the company of his Italian wife of 29 years, whom he met at Cambridge. He also confesses that, in spite of his schedule, he got caught up in the excitement of Wimbledon: "The best view is the one you get while watching the match on the television, but I sometimes go down there just to remind myself what the grass looks like, and to enjoy the atmosphere."

The couple meet friends for meals and go to the cinema, pursuits they have always loved. They also travel. "You would think, with my job, that I would want to stay at home but my wife is an avid traveller and we go away a lot," he says. "She thrives on it, and I love to be with someone who is so enthusiastic."

They bought their home in Chiswick, west London, in 1973, and Mr Brackenbury's only disappointment is that over the years the region has become less culturally diverse. For a man so interested in other cultures the predominance of the white middle class is a cause for regret. "I have watched it change: when I first moved in it was not so suburban as it is now."



Martin Brackenbury: "I believe locals should be informed about the changes tourism will bring, and should be able to assess whether they want it."

Much of his work for the FTO seems to involve saving British holidaymakers from themselves. He shows me an educational video soon to be seen on charter flights, which reminds travellers to watch out when crossing foreign roads, avoid floating out to sea on inflatable air beds and to supervise children near swimming pools. "Yes, it is common sense, but people do die in road accidents and in the sea on holiday and we want to remind them that just because they are on holiday, they still need to take care."

Meanwhile, Mr Brackenbury has not long returned from the Caribbean, where he went to discuss evacuation plans for the islands in case another hurricane hits the region, as it did last year [the visit preceded Hurricane Bertha, which devastated islands in the northeastern Caribbean on July 10]. Since British tourists have little wish to stay on an island devastated by high winds, he has been working out emergency procedures and alternative accommodation plans. He acknowledges that hurricanes are difficult to predict. "Sometimes they look as though they are about to hit an island, and then they move away, so we have to get the balance right."

He has also been working with the Turkish Government to persuade ministers to upgrade roads and fit new traffic lights on a particularly treacherous

coastal strip where a number of Britons have been killed in road accidents. Little of this is publicised since it is achieved through quiet negotiation at top level. Mr Brackenbury has also helped to draw up emergency plans for hotels affected by outbreaks of legionnaires' disease, and is currently involved in advising Croatia on how to attract tourism back to its once-popular resorts. He has also been talking to the Chinese about their efforts to reopen borders along the Silk Route from Xi'an in China to Istanbul, a trip he would some day like to make himself. "You can travel in a fabulous train, all fine upholstery, wooden panels and pianos," he says, his eyes lighting up. "Now that really is a holiday I'd like to take."

Branch of a bank that can count on a culinary history

Joanna Pitman discovers more than money at Lloyds by the Law Courts

Surely one of the more opulent places in London to cash a cheque is the Law Courts branch of Lloyds Bank, at 222 Strand, opposite the Royal Courts of Justice.

Walk into the entrance hall and, if you can ignore the cashpoint machines, you might imagine yourself in the great hall of a grand Turkish bath in old Istanbul. There are tiled pillars depicting torrents of swirling water and thousands of what seem to be jewels studded all over the walls between mosaic tiles in glorious greens and blues. Flying fish, fantastical sea creatures and smooth shells nestling among the sparkling coloured tiles complete the exotic impression of having wandered off the Strand into some bizarre Byzantine Neptune's Cave.

Today you might be there for a sober discussion with your bank manager, but 100 years ago you would probably have been there for a bite to eat. The building that occupies the site today, more or less unchanged, was originally designed as a restaurant. The Royal Courts of Justice Restaurant was built in 1883 under the supervision of two architects, Gwynnour Cuthbert and William Wimple, who also designed the old Baltic Exchange. It was supposed to attract hordes of barristers and solicitors, bringing their clients during the lunch interval in the Law Courts to discuss their cases. Either the decor put them off their food, or the food was not good enough — it closed within three years.

Inside, more decorative tilework must have distracted the gaze of munching barristers. Columns in the main restaurant hall — now



The entrance hall is like a bizarre Byzantine Neptune's Cave

the bank's main office area — are panelled in American walnut and sequoia wood set with hand-painted tiles showing the plants that grew in the Temple Gardens and characters from the plays of Ben Jonson. In 1895 the building was bought and reoccupied as a result of the union of three banks — Lloyds Bank, Messrs Frazer & Co and R. Twining & Co. Bank tellers' desks were installed, but otherwise the restaurant in-

terior was barely changed. The *Penny Illustrated Paper* described the premises that year as "the handsomest and most elegant bank in London".

All the ceramic work was created by Royal Doulton and designed by John McEwan, who produced the work in his studio in Lambeth. In the late 19th century the riches of Persia and Turkey swept through the decorative world of Britain and McEwan's exotic

designs were inspired by this and other commissions for the King of Siam and the Tsar of Russia, as well as Birkbeck Bank and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

McEwan hand-painted the tiles depicting characters from Jonson's plays, a commission inspired by the earliest building on the site, the Palsgrave Tavern, built in 1612 and named after Frederick Palsgrave, later King of Bohemia, who married Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I. Jonson was a frequent visitor to the tavern, and the main banking hall today contains a tiled tableau portrait of him.

The 1883 building was pioneering in several ways. It was supplied with fresh water from an artesian well sunk to 238 feet below the Strand, which fed the flying fish fountains in the entrance hall. It had electric light produced from steam engines and dynamos and the restaurant was one of the first air-conditioned rooms in London, using a system similar to those used to ventilate ships' saloons.

In the basement there still remains the tandem bicycle that was ridden by two women who powered a giant pair of bellows. The air was channelled up through ducts into the restaurant where it poured out through small hinged mahogany panels, freshening patrons' brows.

Now as a bank the branch still draws on a clientele consisting largely of barristers. But when it reverted to a restaurant for one night last year, to mark the branch's centenary, the building fleetingly revelled in its original glory. Fortunately the sous chefs were spared the suburban peddling duties.

Lloyds TSB Group results for the first half of 1996

"I am delighted to report a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £1,141 million and an underlying increase of 32 per cent from ongoing businesses. Revenue has grown strongly and costs have been tightly controlled. An improvement in both the quantity and quality of our earnings enables us to pay an interim dividend of 4.2p per share."

We are making good progress in merging the two groups and expect to achieve further profitable growth in the second half of the year."

Sir Robin Ibbes, Chairman

	Half-year to 30 June 1996 (unaudited) £m	Half-year to 30 June 1995 £m	Half-year to 31 December 1994 £m
Profit before tax — ongoing businesses	1,196	908	1,047
Special items*	(55)	113	7
Profit before tax	1,141	1,021	1,054
Tax	383	311	359
Profit after tax	758	710	695
Minority interests	68	54	56
Profit attributable to shareholders	690	656	639
Dividends	214	173	1,398
Post-tax return on average shareholders' equity	30.8%	22.4%	21.6%
Earnings per share	13.7p	13.1p	12.7p

*Including restructuring provision of £425 million.

*Special items include the sale of certain businesses and investments, general provisions for bad and doubtful debts and contributions from problem country debt.

The interim dividend of 4.2p per share will be paid on 10 October 1996 to shareholders registered on 13 August 1996. It is the intention this year that the interim dividend will represent approximately one-third of the full-year's dividend. In the past Lloyds Bank's shareholders have received approximately 30 per cent of the full-year's dividend at the interim stage and TSB's shareholders approximately 40 per cent. Shareholders who have completed a mandate under the share dividend scheme will receive new shares instead of the cash dividend.

In December 1995 Lloyds Bank plc merged with TSB Group plc, which was renamed Lloyds TSB Group plc and changed its financial year end from 31 October to 31 December. Merger accounting principles were used and statutory accounts were prepared for Lloyds TSB Group plc for the 14 months ended 31 December 1995, with comparative figures for the previous accounting period, the 12 months ended 31 October 1994, as if the new group had been established throughout these periods. In addition a pro forma profit and loss account was prepared for the 12 months ended 31 December 1995, which has been used as a basis for the figures for the half-years to 30 June 1995 and 31 December 1995 shown above. Statutory accounts for the 14 months ended 31 December 1995 were delivered to the registrar of companies. The auditors' report on these accounts was unqualified and did not include a statement under sections 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

Copies of the news release containing full details of the results may be obtained from Investor Relations, Lloyds TSB Group plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS (telephone: 0171 356 1273).





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OFT plan 'will boost cost of health cover'

Caroline Merrell examines recommendations of the OFT report on private medical insurance

The cost of private medical insurance, which is already rising by up to 12 per cent above inflation every year, will increase even more if recommendations by the Office of Fair Trading are adopted, insurers say.

The warning, by some of Britain's biggest companies, comes as they attack plans by the Office of Fair Trading to scrap policies that do not require customers to undergo an initial full medical examination.

They claim that forcing everyone to go through a full underwriting procedure will push up costs even further. Prices are currently rising by between 6 and 12 per cent above inflation.

According to the report published this week by the OFT after a 12-month investigation, consumers pay out more than £1.7 billion for private medical insurance every year.

Under the present "moratoria" system, anyone taking out a plan will not be insured for any pre-existing conditions for two years after they take out the scheme. Many insurers use this method to sell plans in advertisements stating: "private health insurance - no medical required".

Legal & General, which has policies across the range, broadly welcomed the report.

but commented: "The moratoria approach keeps our costs down, particularly as our target market is those who have less money. The OFT seems to be saying that private medical insurance is only for the rich."

Tim Baker, Norwich Union Healthcare commercial director, said: "The OFT has underestimated the benefits of these types of policies to consumers. Pre-existing conditions will eventually be covered after two years. Even if all policies are underwritten, there still may be problems with clients not disclosing information."

The report also looked at the sale of permanent health insurance products, which replace income in the event of illness; critical illness products, which pay out a lump sum in the event of the diagnosis of serious illness; and long-term care products, which provide funding for nursing home care for the elderly.

The wide range of premium rates experienced by those buying private medical insurance was highlighted. For instance, for a single person aged 30 with a comprehensive plan in a high-price area, monthly premiums can vary from £40 to £163 per month.

Bupa and PPP, the UK's two biggest private medical insur-

ers, claimed they were already addressing the concerns of the OFT. Peter Jacobs, Bupa chief executive said: "This report appears to endorse wholeheartedly most of Bupa's operating practices."

The OFT recommends plans be simple to understand, presented in a common format and written in plain English; should be readily comparable, and customers should be given warning about possible rises in premium rates over the term of the policy.

The report attacks permanent health insurance policies for being too difficult for consumers, who spend about £400 million per year on them, to understand. The OFT recommends that the industry, via the Association of British Insurers, should produce a standard definition of total disability and should attempt to draw up a benchmark product. It wants PHI insurers to clarify how their policies interact with the state and employer sick-pay schemes and believes a proper fact-find should be carried out on any one taking out PHI insurance.

On critical illness insurance, the report attacked independent financial advisers for using fear to persuade customers to buy policies and recommended that a standard critical illness policy should be drawn up with the ABI's help.



How not to add to that £100m

TOTAL compensation paid to investors who were victims of fraud, poor advice and misinformation from financial services firms has now reached more than £100 million, it was revealed this week.

The sum has grown every year since the Investors' Compensation Scheme was launched in 1988. The ICS is so concerned that it has drawn up a list of "golden rules" for investors. They sound simple but enough people ignored them to require the ICS to pay out £25 million in 1995: the highest sum in its history.

Take with a pinch of salt other people's "winning formulae", especially those you hear at the pub, or golf club. If a stranger wants to share with you an investment secret, ask yourself why.

Even if family and friends recommend an adviser they have all been using for years, still check the firm's business credentials carefully before you hand over your money.

Ask your financial adviser to check that he is working in your best interests and question him how the investment can pay a higher return than your building society account. Ask whether you could lose money and what he will be getting out of the deal. Check his qualifications and experience in giving investment advice.

You can't have it all. Generally, the higher the potential gain, the higher the risk. Do not exaggerate your salary, pretend you understand things that you do not, or lie about your age.

Exotic offshore centres offering tax-free investments and banking secrecy may also offer no investor protection.

If an investment return seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Ostriches, fine wine, tulip bulbs and classic cars are not legally defined as investments and there is no official compensation fund.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Watchdog call for care sales

The Office of Fair Trading wants to bring long-term care products within the net of the Financial Services Act (FSA) to protect vulnerable investors.

At present, these packages are not classed as investments, and this means they are not subject to the same stringent selling rules and practices that apply to other life and pension products. Nor are investors covered by the official Investors' Compensation Scheme should the company fail.

Since they can cost up to hundreds of pounds a month and are targeted mainly at the elderly, there are fears over mis-selling. The industry is keen to avoid a repeat of the personal pensions mis-selling scandal that caused life product sales to slump.

The Personal Investment

Authority (PIA) has said it will extend its current legal contracts with its 4,000 members to cover any long-term care products they sell and develop a easily recognisable "kite-mark". However, there is a fear that hundreds of companies could step in and start selling unregulated products. The

market for long-term care

plans is expected to grow rapidly over the next decade. An ageing population and cuts to the welfare state mean a growing need for nursing home care paid for by individuals rather than the State.

John Bridgeman, director-general of the OFT, said: "Regulation is not an option we turn to lightly. Nevertheless, even with an open and free economy, there are times when the vulnerability of consumers is such that they need protection."

He added: "Long-term care purchasers need best advice more than almost any other group."

The report also recom-

mends the industry draws up benchmark policies which will allow the consumers to compare products more readily. Last year, the Insurance Om-

budsman received nearly 300 complaints about health insurance products. One third were upheld for the complainant.

The OFT believes that those who sell long-term care insurance should focus on whether prospective purchasers have family care available. The report's final recommendation says prospective purchasers of pre-funded plans should have a clear indication of likely surrender value. If they cannot keep up the premiums,

Paul Seymour, chairman of The Continuing Care Conference, an affiliation of companies in the long-term care market, backed the OFT's call for regulation. He added that the companies in the conference could work together to come up with a benchmark.

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Caroline Merrell

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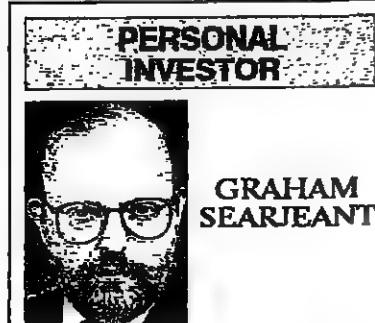
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Summertime turbulence

You might think that stock markets are going haywire. But so far, headline falls have mingled with the odd sharp rise. On Wall Street, share prices have shed roughly 6 per cent. In Britain, the ups and downs have only cost the FT-SE 100 index a net 1 per cent this month, making a slide of 4.5 per cent since the high on April Fool's Day. Still, it is a worrying time for investors in the UK market. Big institutions have been passive net sellers, accepting cash takeovers or big capital dividends and salting the money elsewhere. Their caution, imported from New York, has undermined big flotations. Prices of British Energy, Allied Carpets and Summerfield all had to be scaled back as fund managers played hard to get. At British Energy, these games backfired on small investors. They are now about even, but many have been put off.

City analysts are as sharply divided as ever on how far London is tied to New York. ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett insists that "the historic 80-90 per cent correlation between the two markets continues to hold". NatWest Securities argues that "the supposed close correlation proves to be a chimera" and that UK equities are now closer to continental markets. Such arguments rest on what length of time you select and whether you look for direction or degree of movement.

On mere numbers, shares look cheaper in London than on Wall Street, where top growth companies sent the index rising more steeply for the past two years. UK shares sell at an average 16 times reported earnings and yield 4 per cent, compared with 30 times earnings



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

and much lower dividend yields in America. Interest rates are higher here too, so you would expect share ratings to be lower. They are not exorbitant by historical standards.

That judgment still depends on where we are in the economic cycle and whether, in a more stable, low-inflation economy, that will be anything like the boom and slumps we are used to. The jury is out. Who knows if things might be different under a Blair government? Nearer term, after the pause in economic expansion, company earnings are widely forecast to grow by 10 per cent this year and in 1997.

This is where interest rate fears come in. An upturn in US rates, should it happen, would be good for the American economy at this point. There might still be a countervailing fall in German rates. More likely, rates will generally turn up over coming months. In a climate of strong control of money and inflation, that need not mean they will

go on rising, turning the world economy down. Modest rises should keep the show on the road, and might again be reversed. In the short-term, higher US money costs would still be bad for share markets beyond America, but should comfort inflation-wary bond markets and therefore have a muted impact.

The biggest cloud over UK shares really seems to be melancholia among fund managers. They see little prospect of quick exciting gains, after a long rise in values, and expect a period of nervous uncertainty around election time. Perversely, many would love to see a sharp fall in prices, so that there was more to go for. If the current turbulence brings some such storm, the FT-SE index is unlikely to fall much below 3,400, a drop of 8 per cent, which should not last long. There are no obvious stresses in the system to set off a 1987-style crash.

After the turbulence, and any short-term setback, the index should steadily creep up the 8½ per cent needed to reach 4,000, as profits and dividends grow. Given bad sentiment but seemingly sound fundamentals, investors have little incentive either to buy or sell the market as a whole. We should not be afraid to invest new money in companies that can grow faster than a sluggish investment-starved economy. Citiven, the venture capital group, reckons a company it recently backed has a dominant share of a growing market, a strong brand and a good reputation for quality, service and innovation. That is just what private investors should look for.

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The M&G Corporate Bond PEP

As P-Day approaches, Jody Brett Kelly considers the best buys and most economic finance and insurance for both new and used cars

Cherry-picking insurers find dwindling crop

You own a car and need insurance. That sounds simple enough — if you have never had an accident, are over 30, have a clean licence, a family saloon and live in a crime-free village. But few drivers are the "ideal" and insurers are becoming very choosy about whom they take as customers. The 50 companies that sell over the telephone such as Direct Line and Churchill — usually considered cheaper because they cut out the middleman — are particularly picky. Some target only the near-perfect third of the UK's 20 million drivers.

There are some exceptions: a few insurers realise that they are losing customers who are parents because their children have been told to go elsewhere

with their business. Touchline Insurance believes 18 to 34 year-olds are taking a "more responsible and mature" attitude to driving and their cars. Consequently Touchline is lowering its premiums to attract more drivers from this group. Insurance companies are now using lifestyle surveys to assess applicants. Some even contain questions about smoking as a few companies claim smokers are higher risk because they are more distracted by smoking and flicking ash out of the window while changing gear. Other questions include the number of journeys undertaken, the location of your home, whether the car will be kept in a garage and the claims record. Strangely, the colour of your vehicle

can count against you as research has found that owners of red cars have more accidents, because the colour is not as noticeable in strong daylight. And the AA has bad news: it claims that car insurance costs are set to rise and that any price war may be ending. The increase is only slight — premiums for comprehensive cover have risen by 6p over the last quarter to an average of £341 in July. But on average, the British motorist is still paying £25 less than two years ago.

So what is the answer? Ringing hundreds of insurers for the best deal? There is a better option, says Sharon Bolton, a spokeswoman for BUBA, the insurance brokers' trade

body. She claims her members are beating direct insurers on price 70 per cent of the time. "Brokers now have up-to-date technology and they have many more dozens of products to choose from. And they have developed close relationships with insurers and so can get good deals." The insurer will pay the broker commission of between 10 and 17.5 per cent. The broker's job is not only to find the best deal among the 120 schemes offered by insurers but also to deal with all the paperwork if you have a claim. Simon Bolan, partner with E.H. Ranson, an Edinburgh broker, said he can help a number of drivers who find it difficult to find a cheap policy, or even anyone to take them on, such as young drivers. A

recent survey from CMT Direct Market- ing found 20 per cent of motorists changed their insurer last year and more than half did so to save money. It costs insurers far more to take on a new client than to renew with an existing customer. But drivers concerned only with price are on the wrong track. Eamonn Browne of James & Brown, a Coventry broker, said: "It is all very well paying rock-bottom prices for your insurance, but are you cutting out what you need?" "People get carried away with things like their no-claims bonuses. The bottom line is: what are you paying on your premiums?" It may sound obvious, but check what you are paying for: most people don't. Hugh Robertson, a partner

with Hanson and Robertson of Aberdeen, says: "What are the terms and conditions of your contract? Most people do not get quotes confirmed until after they have paid for the policy. A lot of people aren't sure of their excesses, or what they are getting. They go for the lowest quote." That may mean you are getting a very stripped-down product, for example, without a free green card that covers you while abroad. Also in the case of fire and theft, some companies charge an excess of £100 on top of your optional excess of, say, £200. Mr Robertson added: "It is worth paying an extra £40 for courtesy cars in the case of accident and an extra £49 breakdown recovery service which would cost £100 from the AA or RAC."

A P-rivilege but it comes at a P-price

New cars lose up to a fifth of their value as you drive them off the forecourt, so don't fool yourself that buying a new car makes good money sense.

However, nearly half a million people will pay for the privilege of having a "P" registration by the end of August. Whether you buy a new car or take advantage of bargain basement prices on nearly new cars, your first consideration will be how to pay for it. For most people, paying cash is not an option. But even if you do have the cash available you may want to look at interest-free schemes so you can keep your money and earn interest. Vauxhall and Ford are relaunching their 50:50 deals where you pay half the cost of the car initially and the rest two years later without interest charges.

As the chart compiled by Moneyfacts, the independent data group, shows, the best unsecured rate currently on

offer is from First Direct. Rates vary from 15.9 per cent for loans of between £500 to £2,450 and 10.9 per cent for loans of between £10,000 to £15,000. A loan of £6,000 over three years would cost £223 per month with insurance and £197 without. The Bank of Scotland has a rate of 15.9 per cent for loans of between £500 and £15,000. Monthly payments would be £253 with insurance and £206 without.

Some banks and building societies have higher rates but have incentives. For example, HFC Bank offers free RAC Rescue Service membership and free accident services for a year as well as £30 off an RAC inspection, up to 32 per cent off car insurance and a free video. But its rates are 30.1 per cent for loans of £500 to £1,999 and 19.9 per cent for £5,000 to £10,000.

Besides loans there are hire purchase agreements, normally arranged via your car

dealer. You will need a deposit of between 10 and 40 per cent of the cost of the new car. You pay monthly instalments over an agreed period and don't own the car until the last payment. If you fail to make the payments the car companies can in some cases re-claim it.

There are also personal contract plans where instead of paying off the whole cost of the car during the repayment period, a lump is deferred. This is called the MGFV and attracts interest. The monthly payments might be low but you don't own the car until the end. You may pay more than with a bank loan.

There are also personal leasing plans which are like long term leasing but you don't end up owning the car. However, the monthly payments include servicing, repairs and breakdown cover. This could be a good deal if you seek trouble-free motoring with the security of knowing you don't have to pay up for any problems.

Road to rescue via owners' club

JAX MAYHEW spent a day ringing around to insure her beloved red MG. But because she is only 23 and her sports car is almost seven years old, she found it nearly impossible. Insurers either didn't want to know, or premiums were sky-high.

"It was getting very frustrating," said Jax, a trainee retail manager in London. "But there was no way I was going to sell my car."

She then heard about the MG Owners Club Insurance which specialises in covering the marque. Jax now has third party insurance for £400 a year and will pay the first £250 if she has an

accident. When she reaches 25, she intends to take out comprehensive cover and her excess will fall to £50.

With any other insurer, she would be charged premiums of £1,000 a year. But MG Owners Club Insurance gives customers a bonus for all their years of clean driving.

In Jax's case, this bought her premium down by £600. But if she has a claim she will lose two years' of bonus and her premium rises to about £500. MG Owners Club Insurance also insures owners of a variety of other classic cars such as Minis, Morris Minors and Triumphs.



What a difference a day makes: Jax Mayhew and her beloved MG sports car

Double discount and a holiday is saved

ALAN DAY, an antiques dealer, had tracked down his dream car — a £67,500 new Mercedes 320 SL Sports car. He was looking forward to an extended holiday after he picked it up in Germany. But there was a problem with how to insure the car because it was not registered in Britain and he wanted to drive it through Germany, Switzerland and to France to see his sister.

His broker, Simon Bolan, a partner with E.H. Ranson of Edinburgh, found a way around the problem. He insured the car using the chassis number. On the advice of his broker, Mr Day, 42, who lives in Edinburgh, took out a £1,069 policy with Norwich Union which included free comprehensive cover on the continent. Mr Day paid £25 extra to protect his no claims bonus.

Mr Day allowed him to switch his 60 per cent no claims bonus on his Volvo to the new car. He then insured his Volvo for £336 which took into account a 40 per cent discount from Norwich Union for insuring two cars. Mr Day said: "As you can see, my case was very complicated and really only a broker could know the ins and outs of being able to get such a good deal."

MIKE WILKINSON



Broker saved the day: Alan Day with his Mercedes 320 SL



Hassle-free: James and Carole Lakay saved time and money

In the end the old ways proved best

STEPHEN HILL, computer manager at the Bradford City Community College, turned first to the information highway to find the best car loan.

But the cheapest on the Internet was 13 per cent APR on a £5,000 36-month loan. After searching through Teletext and not finding any-

thing better, he consulted his financial adviser who told him to try his bank — First Direct. It offered him a loan of £5,000 over three years at 11.9 per cent.

Stephen traded in his Renault for £1,400 and bought a K-registed Montego Estate for £4,600 with some left over to improve his kitchen.

JOAN RUSSELL/OLIVERIAN



Computers could not find the answer for Stephen Hill

Accident drove him back to his broker

WHEN his wife bumped into another car outside her health club in Rugby, James Lakay decided to go back to his broker. The time and agony of filling out claim forms himself just wasn't worth it, said James, who runs his own construction company in Coventry.

"I started out using a broker, then decided to buy insurance direct because I thought it would save money. But then I found out how much hassle it was dealing with a claim and I went back to my broker. I know he will deal with the paperwork."

Eamonn Browne, his broker and a partner at James & Brown of Coventry, also found James, 50, and his wife, Carole, 47, a better deal.

James's 1988 Range Rover Vogue is now insured with General Accident for £304.42, with a 60 per cent no-claims bonus compared with his previous cover with Landmark, a direct insurer, which cost £412.05 with 70 per cent ncb.

His wife Carole, who works as a secretary in the business, has a Land Rover Discovery. She is now with Legal & General and pays £290.29 with a 60 per cent ncb against her Landmark cover that cost £344 with a 70 per cent ncb.

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Alliance & Leic Group 0116 2825282	£500-2499 £2.5K-4999 £5-10K	£224.06	£189.58	18.6 14.8 12.8	Complimentary voucher booklet including 25% off Green Flag National Breakdown cover and 25% off HPI check B
Bank of Scot Local Branch	£500-15K	£233.77	£206.46	16.9	None C,H
First Direct 0800 242494	£500-3450 £2.5K-4950 £5K-8950 £10-18K	£223.09	£197.42	15.9 13.9 11.9 10.9	None B,D
Halifax BS Local Branch	£500-10K	£232.56	£212.78	16.9	1 year's free membership of Green Flag National Breakdown F,H
HFC Bank 0800 853383	£500-1999 £2K-4K £2K-1000-4999 £5K-10K	£250.40	£219.41	30.1 24.0 21.8 19.9	Free RAC Rescue Service membership and free accident services (both for 1 year). £30 off RAC inspection. Up to 32% discount off car insurance. Free video - Guide to Buying and Selling Used Cars. Free mobile phone.
Nationswide Local Branch	£1K-3950 £4K-8950 £7K-10K	£226.63	£207.58	16.9 15.9 14.9	Green Flag National Breakdown cover at £8.05 per month and £10 discount off service at Halford's Car Service Centres
TSB Local Branch	£500-2990 £3K-4990 £5K-7490 £7.5-12K	£239.70	£207.57	21.9 17.9 16.9 12.9	Up to £80 saving on TSB Motoring Club Breakdown cover via Green Flag National Breakdown. £10 cash rebate towards TSB motor insurance

B-Lenders cheque account required; C-Lower rates available to existing customers; D-Direct Debit; F-Existing customers only; lower rates for lender's existing borrowers and salary-led current account holders; H-Higher rates apply if insurance not arranged; M-Higher rates apply for non-members; AA membership available at time of loan. Figures correct 14 July 1996. Source: Moneyfacts. The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates

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Sumname(s)

All forenames

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5 Enter full account details for interest to be paid direct to a bank/building society or National Savings Investment Account.

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Account Number

Account Name (s)

6 Signature of holder(s)

Date 19

NATIONAL SAVINGS

(Unique Investment Opportunities from HM Treasury)



N&P staff told Nicola and Claudine-Marie Herbert they would not lose their membership rights and thus their bonus rights by moving their Tessa proceeds to deposit accounts

National & Provincial admits fault over takeover bonuses

The National & Provincial Building Society has admitted to a series of administrative errors at head office and misinformation by branch staff, which risked disqualifying hundreds of members from payouts after the society's takeover by Abbey National.

An estimated one hundred of these members now face a longer wait for bonus payouts and will be forced to forego opportunities to take their bonus in Abbey shares when the takeover is completed on August 4. In at least one case known to Weekend Money, two members stood to lose bonuses totalling nearly £1,500 each because of wrong advice from N&P branch staff. It was only after four months of pressure that N&P agreed it had made a mistake.

Mistakes by the society have included failure to tally application forms and pass books or account records with pass books, thus excluding people who should have qualified for a bonus. Most of these mistakes have been corrected electronically and their victims' membership rights restored.

But the estimated 100 people wrongly advised

Sara McConnell says wrong advice by N&P staff could have cost some members thousands of pounds

by branch staff that they would not lose their right to a bonus by moving or changing their account have not so far been restored. In these cases, members will have to be "compensated" by Abbey National once the takeover has gone ahead. They will have to wait while Abbey correlates its list with that of the Building Societies Ombudsman who is handling some of the complaints. This means they will probably have to wait later than September 2 when other members get paid. Savers of more than two years' standing will also lose their right to choose to take their payment in Abbey shares rather than cash. Abbey shares were worth about 55p at close of business yesterday and have increased sixfold since the former building society floated in 1989.

Under the N&P bonus scheme, members who had been with the society less than two years

will get £500 of Abbey shares. Savers of more than two years' standing will get a flat payout of £750 and a further bonus of approximately 7 per cent of their balance at April 28, 1995, when the flotation was announced, and August 4.

Nicola and Claudine-Marie Herbert of Middlesex have both had tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) with N&P since 1991. When these matured this January, the money was about to be moved into the N&P's Instant Reserve account because the Herberts did not immediately opt to move the money to another Tessa.

This account, which gave the Herberts full membership rights as existing customers, would have paid a worse rate of interest than the society's Investment Reserve account. Branch staff told the Herberts they would not

lose their membership rights and thus their right to a bonus by moving to the deposit account. Both had had approximately £10,400 in the Tessas on April 28, 1995. On this balance, they would have received bonuses of approximately £1,478.

The Herberts subsequently discovered that their decision to put their Tessa money into a deposit account had lost them their membership and their bonus. N&P admitted it had given them wrong information but said it could not reverse the process. It took four months of persistence before N&P's customer services manager wrote to tell them they would be "compensated by the Abbey National". But the letter did not categorically say they would receive the bonuses they qualified for.

It was left to *The Times* to obtain a categorical assurance from N&P that they would get their payouts. The society said: "They will definitely get their money." It said the letter could not be more specific because there were a number of unknown factors including the question of whether the Herberts would still have their money invested on the vital August 4 date.



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance
Deputy Editor

Time runs out for long-term care regulation

The only consolation for people who transferred out of their employer's pension scheme into a personal pension during the mis-selling scandal of the late 1980s and early 1990s is that there is still time to put things right. Though only 7,000 people have so far been compensated out of an estimated 1.5 million potential victims, many have more than a decade to go before they retire and are fit and well enough to fight their corner for compensation. However, the situation is still highly unsatisfactory, which is why the Office of Fair Trading, anxious to prevent a repetition of this fiasco, spoke in strong language this week about the need to regulate a relatively new financial product, long-term care.

Long-term care insurance pays for sick and elderly people to be looked after in their own house or in nursing homes when they are unable to fend for themselves. It follows that if they are unable to bathe and dress themselves, they are also unlikely to fight for compensation in the courts if the policy they bought to provide professional care turns out to be a rip-off. The provision of long-term care is one of the most emotive issues the Government now has to tackle. Having spent years encouraging the thrifty middle classes to save and buy their own homes, it is now giving warning that they might have to sell them to fund their care in old age. These insurance policies, which are not at all cheap, will be in greater demand as the level of state care declines.

The OFT is concerned about the effects of mis-selling. "It is an expensive product which is usually purchased when income is beginning to dry up," its report says. "Long-term care purchasers need 'best advice' more than almost any other group. They are unlikely to be in a position to complain effectively if it then turns out that they have not been treated fairly." There is no suggestion that any of the long-term care policies currently on the market have been mis-sold, although some may have to change their frame of reference if the law is amended.

The industry's real fear is that unscrupulous, unregulated sellers may join the market as soon as it starts to really take off, and flog sub-standard products to frightened old ladies. There is enough time now to stop this happening. Insurance companies may complain that regulation is expensive, but the human cost of another mis-selling scandal will be even greater.

Winners and losers

There is always someone in the pub or at the golf course who is a self-styled investment whizz, only too happy to pass on tips on how to get rich quick. "It worked for me" they boast. If their "winning formula" was as effective as they claimed, they would be sitting on a sun-drenched Barbados beach instead of propping up the bar.

Nevertheless, hundreds of hapless acquaintances follow their advice and end up broke or the victim of a financial scam. This is why the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) has put together a set of "golden rules" to help the public avoid investment sharks. When bombarded with yield figures, dividends, endowments and terminal bonus predictions, some consumers lose their common sense.

It is not unknown, the ICS comments, for investors to pretend to understand complicated transactions, or lie about their age and their salary. The moral of the story is to be as wary of your financial adviser as you would of a back-street carpet salesman.

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Party time: the lure of much lower duty on liquor and tobacco in France attracts thousands of Britons every year

Daze-trip for wine lovers

Karen Zagor on a growing
pastime for thirsty Britons

Every day boat-loads of money-minded Britons cross the channel to stock up on inexpensive wine and beer. So popular is this pastime that ferry companies now offer special one-day fares and Britain's brewers, pub operators and off-licences are worried that the day-trippers will put them out of business.

The reason for these cross-channel jaunts is that Britain has thus far failed to bring its excise duty charges on wine and beer into line with the Continent. Instead, the Government now allows people to bring home as much alcohol and tobacco as they want, provided the goods are for personal consumption.

Up to 15 per cent of all alcohol bought by Britons in off-licences and supermarkets is now purchased in France, according to brewers. They claim this figure could rise to 20 per cent in just four years.

Before jumping into the car and heading for Calais — home of the biggest hypermarkets — it is worth calculating whether your savings will be worth the journey. The answer will depend partly on what you plan to buy and partly on your mode of transport.

If the cost of transport is higher than your savings, there is no point straying further than the local off-licence. You will need a car if you plan to stock up on enough alcohol to make the journey worthwhile.

For the Dover-Calais run on Sunday to Friday, Stena Sealink charges £19 for a car

plus £4 per person. The weekend rate is £29 for a car plus the £4 per-passenger rate. The company says it will match any fare offered by a competing operator. The Folkestone-Calais day-trip by train will cost £59 per car. There are no additional passenger costs.

When calculating travel costs, remember your petrol costs, which will add about £20 to a London-Dover-London journey.

French duty charges are higher on spirits and tobacco than wine, so most canny shoppers buy expensive spirits at the duty-free shop and leave bulk-buying wine and beer for the

French hypermarket. One litre of Gordon's gin costs about £11 at a French hyper-market, £10.25 on the ferries and £6 on Le Shuttle. The same bottle will set you back about £14.75 in a supermarket or off-licence at home.

Wine and beer tend to be cheaper in France. Wine prices are helped by very low duty, of only 2 francs per case (about 28p) compared with duty of £12.64 per case in the United Kingdom. The savings can be so great that the Wine Society has set up shop in Calais just so its members can take advantage of the favourable rates.

Remember that you will have to pay French VAT, of 18.6 per cent, on your wine. This means the most substantial savings are on the least expensive wines.

Thomas Cook links to speed money abroad

When disaster strikes on holiday, it can be distressing to be in need of urgent funds from home. This can happen particularly if you have suffered theft, or need to pay a large hospital bill. Students relying on their parents for funding and travellers who have been away for a long time may also be affected.

Thomas Cook has announced a link-up with the US company MoneyGram to offer a worldwide money transfer service. The MoneyGram service was set up in 1988 and is now in 20,000 locations around the world. The majority are in the North and South America, but the service also has links in the Middle East, Europe and in Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

The MoneyGram service claims that the transfer of funds takes only 10 minutes. Upon payment to a local Thomas Cook branch with the service charge, delivery will take place in the local currency to the recipient. Sending £750 from London to Jamaica, for example, will cost £39. The same transfer with Western Union costs £42, while with Abbey National costs £25 but the money will take five days to arrive. Sending money via the postal system

to Jamaica would cost around £5, but would also take five to seven days.

Other banks offer such services but rely usually on the recipient having a bank account in the target country. Again, costs depend on speed. NatWest, for instance, has its Relay service allowing up to £2,000 to be sent. It has two levels. The standard level takes around four days and costs £9, while the urgent service will take about one to two days and costs £18.

Lloyds offers both standard and express services. The standard service will cost £13-£40 according to the amount transferred. The express service, which takes two to three days, incurs the same costs and an extra £6. Lloyds offers a cheaper service for sending money to Europe, taking up to six days and costing £5.50 for the sender and £3.50 for the recipient.

However, using credit and debit cards abroad is still the cheapest payment method. A recent Which? report found that withdrawing £500 cash on a credit or debit card while travelling costs about £16, against the £28 cost on £500 of traveller's cheques.

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DUTY-FREE: up to 200 cigarettes, 100 cigarillos, 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco; 2 litres of still table wine; 1 litre of spirits or strong liqueurs over 22 per cent volume or 2 litres of fortified wine, sparkling wine or other liqueurs. You are entitled to this limit whenever you travel into an EU country, so on a trip to France you can bring back double the amount, provided you get off the boat in France.

DUTY-PAID: You can bring in what you like as long as you have paid local duty and the goods are for your personal use. Customs does, however, have trigger levels where you will have to prove the goods are for you and not for resale. So if you are stocking up for a wedding remember that customs belts will start ringing when you have more than 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars, 1 kilo tobacco; 10 litres of spirits, 20 litres of fortified wine, 90 litres of wine of which not more than 60 litres is sparkling and 110 litres of beer. This includes anything bought duty-free.

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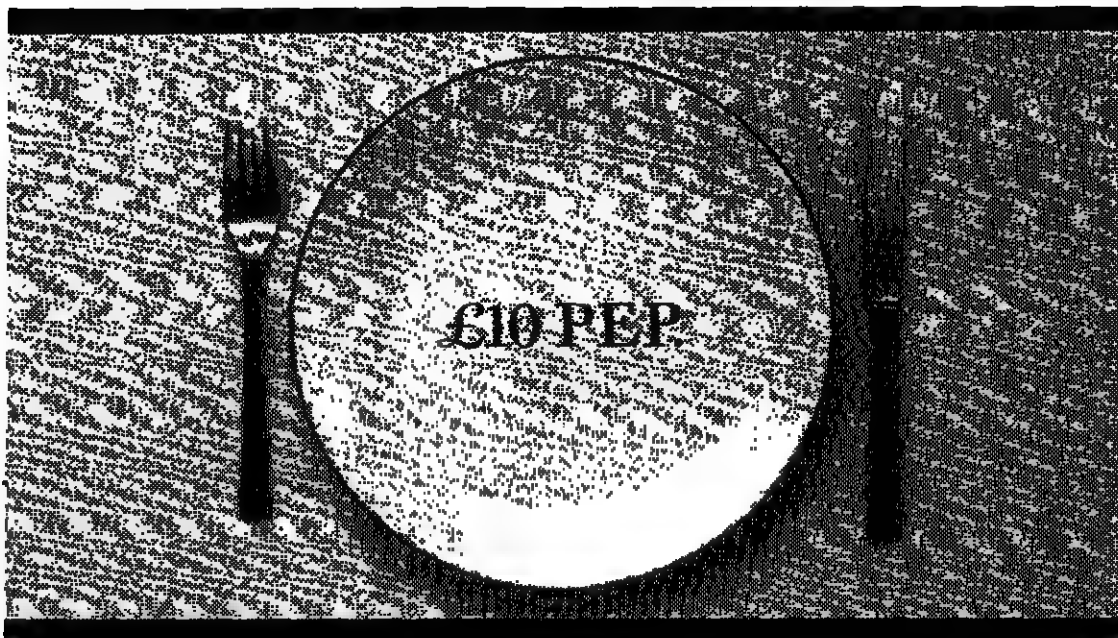
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Sara McConnell finds help at hand on leasehold loan problems

Sold short on a lease

Estate agents and leasehold advisers are putting together plans to help the growing number of people on short leases who are sold their homes as unmortgageable when they come to sell them.

Lenders are increasingly reluctant to offer loans on properties with leases of less than 75 years to run. According to the government-funded Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service (LEAS), many have tightened their criteria in the past 18 months.

Where they would previously have lent on a property with a 50 or 60-year lease, they are now insisting on 75 years, in spite of provisions put in place three years ago for leaseholders to extend by 90 years.

Flatowners in London are among the hardest hit by leases as a depreciating asset. Many live in flats that were first converted in the housing boom of the 1970s and their leases are now 20 years old.

The LEAS this week attacked lenders for their "unexplicable" stance on short leases, which it says is further holding back a still weak market.

Peter Haler, chief executive, said: "The mortgageability of short leases is down and the responsibility for this remains with the lenders. Almost anyone can extend their lease, so any lease is worth the same as any other lease."

"We have vendors saying, 'We have a purchaser but we can't complete because the lender won't offer them a mortgage'."

Now the LEAS and the National Association of Estate Agents are discussing the possibility of developing a leasehold extension information pack containing all the necessary legal forms and advice.



Under offer — but many leasehold flatowners cannot sell

ability of developing a leasehold extension information pack containing all the necessary legal forms and advice. Sellers with short leases would be told they could apply to extend their leases and register their intention at the Land Registry. Lenders would be shown the evidence that this had been done. It would then

be up to the seller to complete the procedure once he or she had bought the property. The cost would be split between buyer and seller. As long as the seller had lived in the property for three years before applying — a pre-requisite for extension — the lease could be extended immediately. The plans are still at an early stage

and will be discussed again in September. So how do you extend your lease in the meantime if you are in this situation?

■ You can apply for an extension as an individual without involving your fellow leaseholders. You qualify if your lease was originally longer than 21 years and you pay a low ground rent. This means not more than two thirds of the rateable value of the property on leases granted before April 1, 1963 and before April 1, 1990. After this it must be less than £1,000 in London and £250 elsewhere. You must have lived in the property for three years.

■ You can serve a notice on your landlord formally making an offer of what you are prepared to pay. To do this you will probably need the help of a valuer and a solicitor.

■ Your landlord has two months to respond to your notice, either accepting or rejecting your entitlement to extend your lease and your terms.

■ If you cannot agree on a price, you will have to go to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal. The LEAS says the basic cost of a leasehold extension is about £250, but added to this is a sum for "marriage value" which compensates the landlord for a reduction in the value of his interest in the property.

■ Throughout the process you must respond within deadlines specified, otherwise the application will fall through. You will then have to pay your landlord's costs and wait a year before applying again.

The leaseholder's charter

STRENGTHENED rights for long leaseholders were signed into law this week in the Housing Act, giving them new powers to resist intimidation, extortion and incompetence from their freeholders, and greater access to affordable justice.

Under the Act:
■ Leaseholders will be able to challenge unreasonable service charges and bad management through a leasehold valuation tribunal (LVT) instead of a court, probably from next April. The tribunal will charge a set fee of not more than £500 per application, with neither side being awarded costs. This is intended to overcome the reluctance of leaseholders to go to court in case

they end up paying the landlord's costs. But the new rules do not prevent landlords claiming back costs if this is in the lease.

■ Landlords will not be able to threaten those who refuse to pay service charges with forfeiture of a lease until the LVT has ruled the charge is reasonable.

■ It will be a criminal offence for landlords not to offer leaseholders first refusal if he wants to sell his freehold. Previously there was no sanction for ignoring leaseholders' rights.
■ The LVT will be able to appoint a manager in place of a landlord who persistently levies high charges or proposes unreasonable (unnecessarily

grand or unnecessarily shoddy) repairs. If this manager is still in place two years later, leaseholders will be able to buy the freehold at its open market value without any extra compensation for the landlord.

■ Landlords will no longer be able to split freeholds to create two companies and thus prevent people buying their freehold — the so called "flying freehold".

■ Those with leases with original terms of more than 35 years will not have to satisfy a complex "low rent" test before buying their freehold or extending their lease.

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while Jody Brett Kelly meets a satisfied seller who saved on the estate agency fee

'Loot' makes a home sale in two weeks



Toast to success: George Parnell sold his Battersea flat by setting viewing appointments to his convenience

GEORGE PARNELL had his Manor Block, Battersea, south London, flat on the market for months with an estate agent. But he was unhappy. "I didn't want to give them the key," says George, 49. "But that meant they would ring me at work and ask me to be at the house within half an hour because someone wanted to see it right then."

The Manor Block flat was priced right — others in the block had recently sold for £70,000 to £80,000 but he was only asking £68,000 because he wanted a quick sale. He heard about Loot, signed up and within two weeks the flat was sold.

"The sign said the flat was advertised in Loot, people looked in it, rang me and we set a convenient time. I only got genuine viewers." Four people saw the flat before it sold. George also saved the agent's 2 per cent fee.

Do-it-yourself and sell

Increasing numbers of enterprising do-it-yourselfers are looking to save thousands of pounds by selling their own house. Although stiff competition among solicitors and estate agents is driving down the price of moving, many people still want to cut out the middle person.

The estate agent's job is to arrange a valuation, advise on the sale price and show interested buyers your home. With a little effort you can do their job and save on commission fees of between 1.5 and 4 per cent. That means a saving of between £1,500 and £4,000, if your home is worth £100,000.

If the sale is simple some people opt to do the conveyancing themselves, though most lenders will probably insist on using a solicitor. And if you are buying a lease rather than a freehold it is probably not a good idea to do the conveyancing yourself. The National Consumer

Council says there may be hidden clauses about escalating management charges and problems with insurance.

Nell Smith, for The Law Society, also cautions against not using a solicitor: "If something goes wrong you are really on your own."

If you have signed up with an estate agent make sure the agreement is formally ended

With a little effort you can do the agent's job and save on commission

before you sell privately, because some contracts specify that commission is payable even if you find the buyer.

Your first task is to arrange for a valuation. Contact the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors for your nearest valuer, who will charge between £75 and £100. Now you need to attract

genuine buyers. There are a number of free advertising papers where you can advertise and it is a good idea to put a "Private For Sale" board outside your home. Once the property is sold the board should read "sold subject to contract" not "under offer".

U-Sell Direct can help you for a registration fee of £49.95. The fee includes "Private For

are selling and £224 plus VAT if you are buying. You will still have to pay Land Registry fees, and stamp duty. You also get a 12 per cent discount off removals when you sell.

Loot, the free ads newspaper, has a similar service for £59.95 called Loot Private Sale. This includes 12 weeks advertising, access to legal advice and property detail sheets to hand out to prospective buyers. For those who do not want to put their phone number on a sale board, Loot has an answer service at mobile phone rates.

Remember, in England either party can pull out before contracts are exchanged. You may want to ask for a deposit to compensate for this occurring.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors: 0171 222 7000
U-Sell Direct: 0171 738 2222
Loot: 0171 372 7252
Which Way to Buy, Sell and Move House: £10.99 from Consumer Association

A helping hand from the doctor

She recommends flowers, fresh towels and getting rid of that spider plant in the bathroom. In her own US city of San Francisco she's been nicknamed the house doctor. And for good reason.

A former real estate agent and now an interior designer, Ann Maurice is noted for helping many thousands of despondent homeowners to sell their houses. She claims that many of her clients sell in the first week and almost all in the first month.

In April she appeared on BBC2's *Home Front* to help one British homeowner whose two-bedroom Victorian cottage had been on the market for a year. After she had whisked through the house — clearing, throwing out tatty plants, covering the couch, adding a fresh coat of paint and hanging a few inexpensive prints — the cottage sold in nine days.

According to the *Estate Gazette*, it will cost at least £17,000 to bring a 30-year-old home up to modern standards. But Ms Maurice knows of many cheaper, easier ways to improve your chances of attracting a buyer.

First, look at the entrance way as though you are seeing it for the first time. "Walk up

the driveway — does the house look inviting, do you think that house must be cute inside?" Replace broken flower pots, dead plants and old mats. Scratches on the door from your pets should be covered with a coat of paint.

Once inside, take down all those jackets hanging at the door and leave just one. Clear away books and magazines and children's toys. Benches in the kitchen must be completely clear of everything except what you use everyday. Clear the bathroom of all toiletries and spider plants. Buy some new fluffy towels and only put them out on a viewing.

"People complain that this is all too much work. But I tell them they'll have to do it when you move anyway, so they might as well do it now."

Paint the walls an antique white or bone and then add some colour with cushions, mats and prints, which pick up the same tones. "I tell people: I'm not asking you to live like this until it sells. It's an artificial way to live before the sale, but it works."

To complete the subliminal appeal, boiling water with a stick of cinnamon, a few drops of cinnamon oil in the oven or a fresh coffee will help.



Quick result: Cathy Wardale sold her house in nine days

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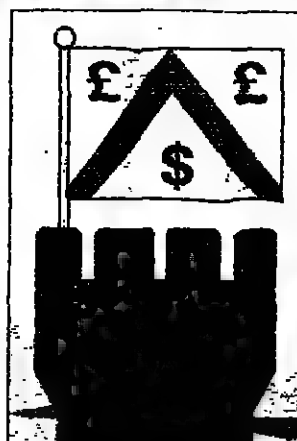


Gap-year adventure: working with the Tanzanians

Page 18

PLUS: Welsh whisky and jazz, page 21

PROPERTY



Cut-price castles that are worth their keep

Page 6

PLUS: homes for millionaires, page 6

OFFERS



Two for the price of one hotel breaks

Page 23

PLUS: cheap tickets for Degas exhibition, page 14

FOOD



How the salesmen pump up the ices prices

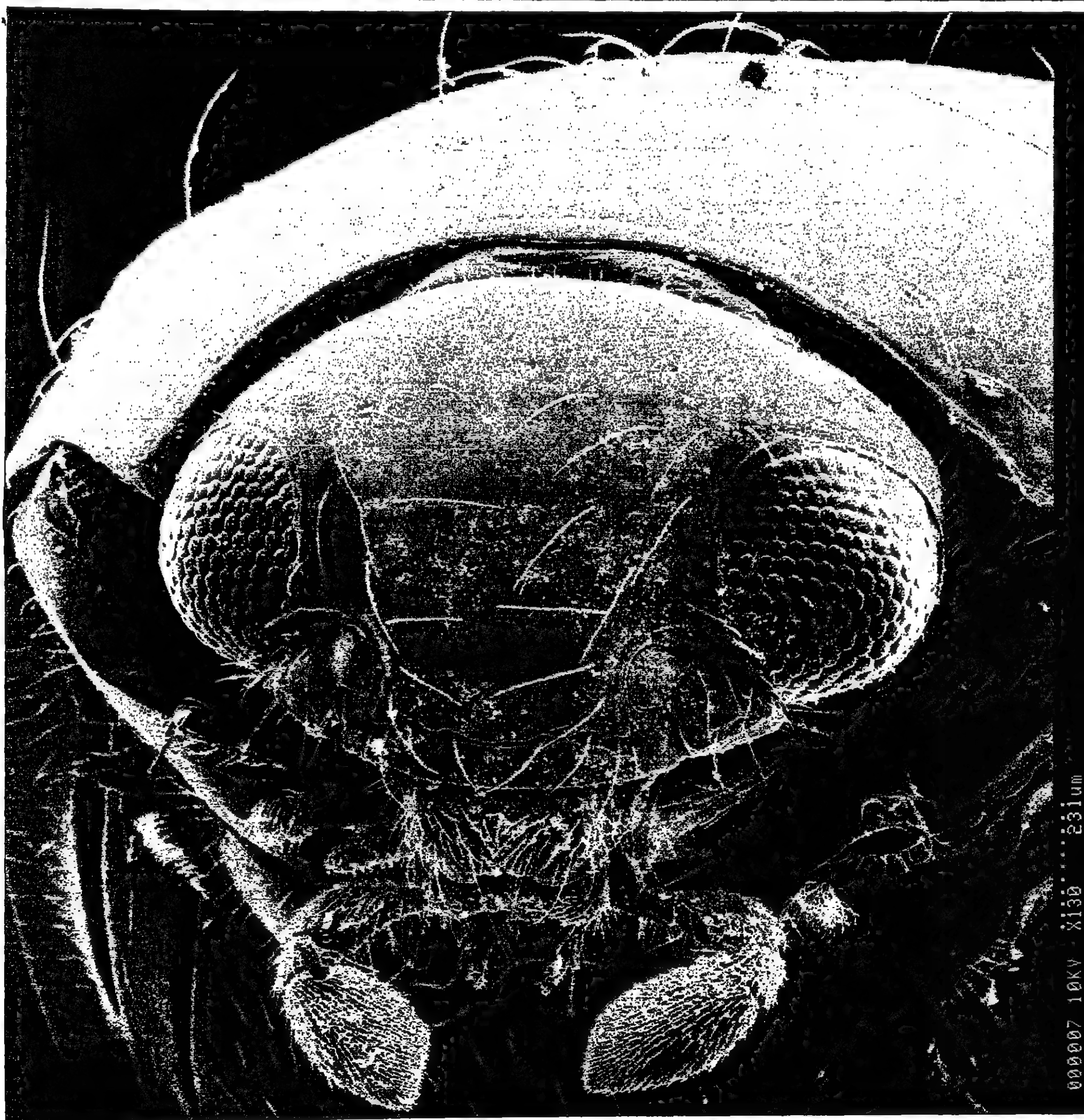
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PLUS: Paul Heiney's hot stuff, page 3

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 27 1996

THE BEAST THAT WILL SAVE YOUR GARDEN



Perry Cleveland-Peck on the biological control superbugs that could take the place of pesticides

Earlier this month a predator was released into the hallowed gardens of Britain: gardens like yours and mine. It is a beast previously unknown to this green and fecund land; a creature which survives by sucking the life out of the animals around it.

Indigenous to the jungles of central America, *Delphastus pusillus* is a black, predatory beetle that sounds like a nightmare but could just be the gardener's saviour: it feeds on whitefly. The whitefly, responsible for killing your painstakingly cultivated plants, are so voracious that, if left uncontrolled, they are capable of annihilating a commercial crop of vegetables, worth £250,000 per hectare, in a season. Research by Hanover University in Germany estimates that the global cost of plant pests to commercial growers, from 1988-1990, was about \$37 billion (£24.5 billion).

For amateur gardeners, whitefly ruin plants and cost time, money and energy. Often the last line of defence against these pests is chemical warfare, but insecticides can leave residues on your plants, and the insects they are trying to combat can soon show a remarkable resistance. There is also the cost that some chemical insecticides have on the environment.

But all this is likely to change.

Delphastus pusillus is playing a central part in an expanding movement towards biological control of pests such as whitefly, a system which employs predators or parasites to kill the creatures which kill our plants. It is an effective method, first practised in the commercial world by Californian growers at the turn of the century, and one that is slowly making its way on to the amateur gardener's market.

Delphastus is similar to many biological control organisms sold by a British company, Defenders, based in Kent. Its sister company, Biological Crop Protection, supplies the commercial plant world and was granted a licence to release delphastus into commercial glasshouses by the Department of the Environment late last year. Defenders is running trials with delphastus to examine its suitability for application to the domestic greenhouse environment. Trials are being held in gardens throughout the country.

Whitefly is a small, white, waxy fly commonly found on greenhouse plants such as fuchsias, pelargoniums and chrysanthemums, as well as tomatoes and cucumbers. The fly sucks the sap from the plant's leaves and stems, leaving a distinctive sticky honeydew and, in the long run, a sick or dead plant.

A beneficial insect already on the market as a whitefly control is an organism called *Encarsia formosa*. This is a minute, clear-winged, parasitic wasp which slows down, but does not stop, the spread of whitefly by laying its eggs inside the whitefly larvae, killing the larvae and procreating its own species in the process. Each encarsia can lay about 100 eggs in her month-long lifetime. But it is a laborious

Continued on page 2, col 1

FOOD.....3 GARDENING.....4.5 PROPERTY.....6.7 SHOPPING.....9.10 BOOKS.....12.13 GOING OUT.....14.15 PETS.....16 TRAVEL.....17-21 GAMES.....25

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The beetle reveals among whitefly, seeking and devouring the adults



Clive Foster, the pest control officer at Kew, now uses biological control. Only in extreme cases are chemicals used

Continued from page 1
process: encarsia can lay only one egg inside each whitefly larva, which take about two to four weeks to hatch. It therefore does not have an immediate impact on an infestation of whitefly.

A cousin of the ladybird, *Delphastus pusillus* adopts a proactive attitude in dealing with the whitefly. A predator rather than a parasite, it reveals among concentrations of the pest, seeking out the adult whitefly and devouring them. It is hoped that, by using *delphastus*, reductions of the whitefly populations should be apparent almost immediately.

For the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, southwest London, holder of one of the world's most important plant collections, effective pest control is crucial. Kew has been practising biological control, or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) — a system which uses chemicals that have no harmful effects on the beneficial insects — as its general

garden policy since 1991. The plant collections at Kew are housed in precisely controlled environments, from moist tropics to alpine habitats. Only in extreme cases does Kew resort to chemicals.

With more than 40,000 taxa (specific species) of plants and about 750,000 specimens of fungi, Kew has to deal with many varieties of plant pest, the most common being whitefly, vine weevil, thrips, red spider mite, aphids, scale insect and mealybugs. These are pests found in all glass or greenhouse, including yours and mine (see chart, right).

Clive Foster, Kew's pest control co-ordinator, says: "Towards the late 1980s we started noticing that the pests were becoming increasingly resistant to the range of chemicals that we were using to combat them. After extensive trials in 1987, we began using biological controls."

"We use biological methods primarily to minimise pest damage to our glasshouse collections. In particular, we have had success controlling red spider mite, whitefly, and

citrus mealybug. This is highly significant: whitefly and spider mite are the two worst glasshouse pests that a grower will come across. With biological control, these pests can be eradicated without using chemicals."

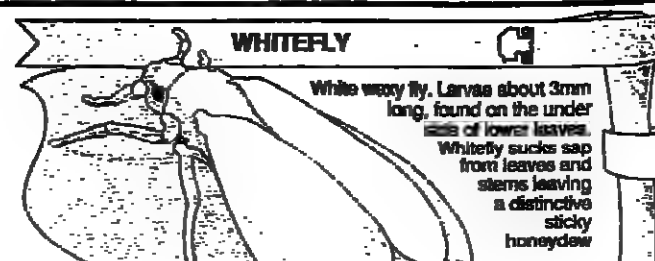
"We have a rare plant called *Trochetopis epiphyllum*, which comes from St Helena in the South Atlantic. Until 1974 it was believed to be extinct. *Trochetopis* suffered terribly from the attentions of red spider mite and at one time was very, very poorly. Now, thanks to biological controls, it is in a much better shape."

Integrated pest management at Kew has proved more expensive. Last year it spent £16,000 on biological controls, double what it used to spend on chemicals. The staff at Kew believe the expense is worth it, because biological controls are sometimes much easier and safer to work with than chemicals, and Kew does not have to close houses to the public for fumigation.

Even more exotic methods of biological control have been attempted at Kew. "We had a rather bad cockroach problem," Mr Foster says, "and initially we did not know if there was a chemical available to deal with them. A butterfly farmer told us that quails keep cockroaches down, so we got some Chinese painted quails. We have had them two years but they don't really work, I suppose, they are more ornamental than anything else."

"We also have some Chilean runner lizards in the Palm House, given to us by Customs and Excise after they had been discovered being smuggled into the country. The lizards are not particularly successful, either: they eat even fewer cockroaches than the quails and we'd need thousands of lizards if we were to get rid of them all."

Overseas, *delphastus* is a key player in efforts to save commercial crops from a new strain of whitefly. The B-type strain of *Bemisia tabaci* (tobacco whitefly) is a serious threat to greenhouse crops on the Continent and in North



WHITEFLY

White weedy fly. Larvae about 3mm long, found on the under side of lower leaves. Whitefly sucks sap from leaves and stems leaving a distinctive sticky honeydew

Biological control:
Encarsia formosa. Parasitic wasp which lays eggs inside the whitefly larvae

Suppliers and prices:
Defenders: £5.95 for single dose
Scarlets: £7.50 for 800 bugs
Green Gardener: £13.99 for a course of 4 introductions, 7 or 14 days apart

Chemical alternatives: Polysect £3.95, Fumite Whitefly smoke cones £4.49, Murphy systemic action insecticide £6.02



RED SPIDER MITE

0.7mm long, olive green with two dark spots on their backs. Feed off plant sap causing leaves to mottle and die

Biological control:
Phytoseiulus persimilis. Wingless predator mite which eats the spider mite

Suppliers and prices:
Defenders: £9.95 for 1000 bugs
Scarlets: £13.00 for 1000 bugs
Green Gardener: £13.99 for a course of 2 introductions

Chemical alternatives: Liquid Derris £2.10, Smoke Cones £4.50, Liquid Malathion £5.15



THRIPS

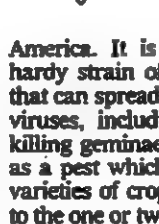
Narrow, greyish brown flying insect with long, narrow yellow wings. Sucks the juices from plants and distorts and distorts leaves and flowers



Biological control:
Amblyseius cucumeris. Small mite which eats the developing stages of the thrips. Does not eat the adults

Suppliers and prices:
Scarlets: £7.50 for 30 sachets

Chemical alternatives: Murphy Bug Master £2.80, Liquid Derris £2.10, Bios Crop Saver £4.25



America. It is an extremely hardy strain of whitefly, one that can spread up to 60 plant viruses, including the plant-killing geminivirus, as well as a pest which feeds on 600 varieties of crops, as opposed to the one or two varieties that our native whitefly eat. In addition, it is resistant to many of the traditional chemical pesticides.

In America, *bemisia* is estimated to have caused \$500 million (about £330 million) of damage to the 1991 winter vegetable harvest and, in the process, has displaced the native American whitefly.

Officially, Britain is free of *Bemisia tabaci*, but outbreaks have occurred annually in this country since 1987, usually in autumn when poinsettias are imported from the Continent. The Plant Health Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is using *delphastus* to fight an outbreak of *bemisia* at some glasshouses in Wales.

Abroad, Dutch growers have been using *delphastus* against *bemisia* with great success for two years.

Are there any risks associated with biological control? Can the release of a non-indigenous creature upset our native ecosystem and biodiversity?

Dr Roger Booth, a leading entomologist at the Natural History Museum, London, who specialises in the study of this type of beetle, says: "The only concern I have with releasing *delphastus* is the effect it may have on our native ladybirds by devouring a main source of food. Depending on how tropical an environment *delphastus* was

taken from, they will probably not survive the British winters and, so far as I can tell, they do not provide much of a threat to our ladybirds."

Before granting a release licence, the Department of the Environment insist on rigorous trials. The organisms have to show that they are strictly host-specific to the target creatures, meaning that they will kill only the pests that they are intended to.

Sold strictly as host-specific controls, *encarsia* and *delphastus* will, we are assured, die off when all the whitefly have been eradicated and their food source has gone. And, being native to a tropical climate, they should die off when the first frosts arrive.

However, Professor Jacqueline McGlade, a senior lecturing ecologist at the University of Warwick, says that biological control can have its drawbacks if not employed in a responsible manner. She says: "Myxomatosis was a biological control programme that was used in Australia against rabbits, resulting in the widely reported disastrous effects."

"More recently, the introduction of the Nile Perch as part of a biological control

GARDEN PESTS AND HOW TO BEAT THEM

For stockists details see below

VINE WEEVIL

Small black beetle about 8mm long. Attacks plant foliage leaving distinctive "U" shaped notches



APHIDS

Greenfly, blackfly. They suck the sap from plant leaves, secreting a sticky honeydew. Often shed a skeletal-like white skin



Biological control:
Aphidius colemani. Parasitic wasp which lays eggs inside the aphids

Suppliers and prices:
Defenders: £8.95 for 1 dose
Scarlets: £7.50 for 100 bugs
Green Gardener: Full course of 2 introductions £13.99

Chemical alternatives: Rapid £3.70, Polysect £5.95, Sybol £4.14



MEALYBUG

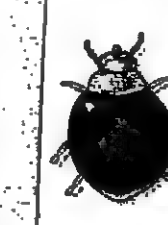
Look like miniature white woodlice. They suck the sap from leaves, stems and roots distorting plant growth. Deposit a sooty mould on leaves and "cotton wool" type matter in crevices



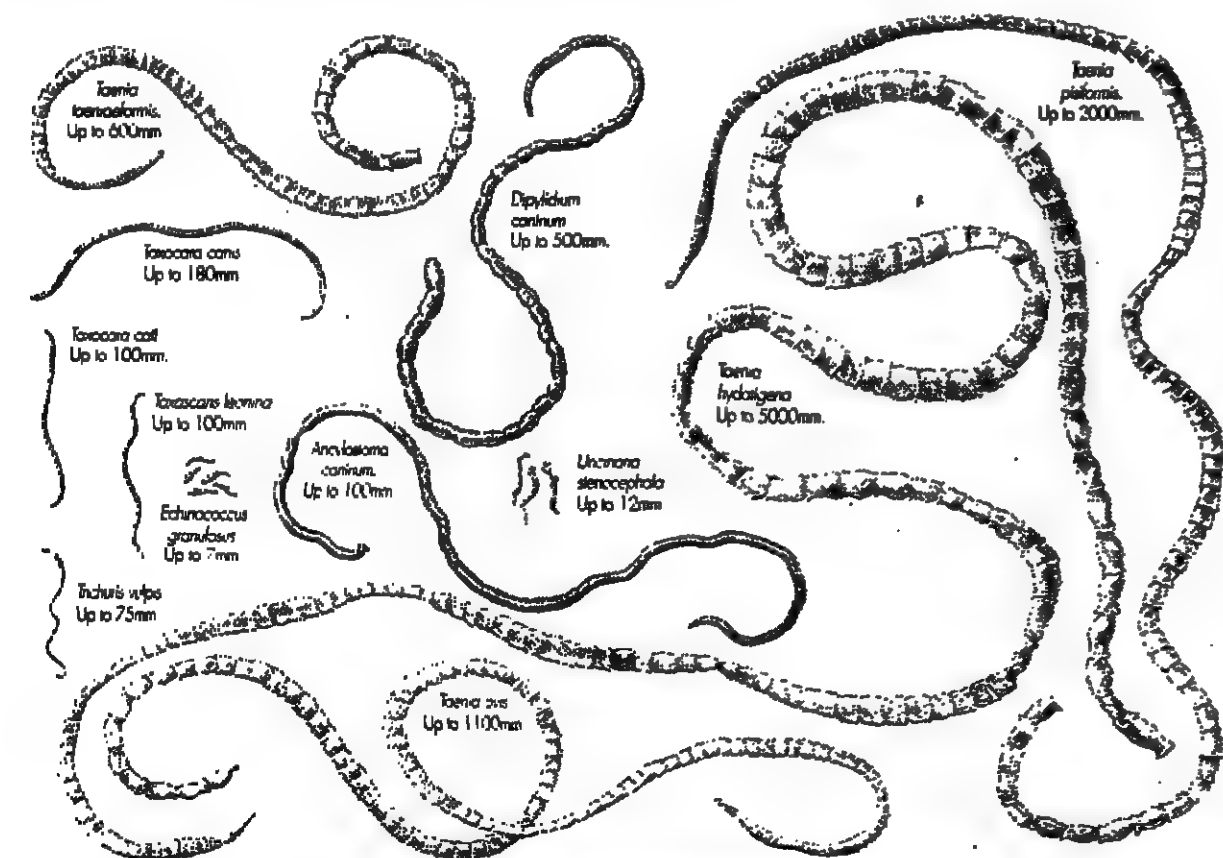
Biological control:
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri. Small brown Australian ladybird which feeds on mealybugs

Suppliers and prices:
Defenders: £9.95 for 10 bugs; creates a breeding population. Scarlets: £7.50 for 10 bugs Green Gardener: £18.99 for a full course of two introductions

Chemical alternatives: Liquid Malathion £8.15, Levington Nature's Answer £3.05



Insects not drawn to scale



IF THEY MAKE YOU SQUIRM, IMAGINE WHAT THEY DO TO DOGS AND CATS.

There are a dozen different species of intestinal roundworms and tapeworms which can infest cats and dogs in Britain.

Between them, they can cause a dull, lifeless coat, swelling of the stomach, loss of weight, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

In addition, one of the most common ones can potentially cause blindness in children.

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FACTFILE

■ The biological control beetle *Delphastus pusillus* should be available for use by amateur gardeners after information from the on-going trials has been analysed.

■ Biological controls should not be used in combination with most chemical insecticides, because the chemicals will kill the beneficial organisms.

■ The Defenders company (01233 813121), which supplies biological controls, also has a handbook which explains the intricacies of the science. Price £5.95.

■ Other suppliers of approved biological controls include Scarlets (01206 260466) and Green Gardener, which also operates a 24-hour helpline on 01603 715096.



Cover picture of *Delphastus pusillus*, magnified 400 times and coloured, and the picture above by CHRIS JONES of the electron microscope unit, Natural History Museum, London

Forget ice-cream and sorbets, a steaming bowl of mulligatawny is the only way to cool down during a searing English summer

If you can't stand the heat...

I had an aunt who was a devoted tennis player and swore blind that the best way to cool off in very hot weather was not to drink icy drinks, but to sip a cup of hot steaming tea. It made you sweat, she said, and hence you cooled. I was seven years old at the time this was explained to me and I was not convinced that this was anything other than a hastily concocted theory to get her out of buying me an ice-cream.

But as the summer goes on, I am beginning to wonder if she was not right. If you look at the cuisine of the hotter parts of the world, like India, there is not a lot of chilled soup or sorbet to be found. Quite the reverse; the higher the sun gets in the sky, the hotter the curries, and the cooler the people become. This appears to be a fortunate side-effect because doubtless the pungent curries were used initially as preservatives to prolong the life of meat beyond the minutes it would have stayed fresh in the searing heat. Whatever the truth, curry remains a remarkable dish for it not only cools you in the summer, but warms every part of the body in winter. What other

dish can achieve that? But the trouble with curry is that it can sit heavy, and an extra spicy burden round the midriff is hardly welcome at this time of year. So here is my solution which is drawn from the late 18th century and which somehow I feel one should sip underneath a fluttering Union Jack humming *The Road to Mandalay*.

Mulligatawny soup: my family could hardly believe it when I announced on the hottest day of the summer so far that they were to expect a steaming panful of soup for supper. If it had to be soup, they said, let it at least be a chilly gazpacho. But curry, please! I told them about the glorious days of Empire, the East India Company and its employees with whom this was a favourite. They pleaded for salad and jugs of iced water. I told them the name comes from the Tamil *milkutanni*, which translates as pepper water. My daughter threatened to ring

Childline and report me. I persisted.

I had not decided whether it was to be a clear or a thick mulligatawny. Lord Lurgan, I read in an extract from the 19th-century *Cookery Book of Lady Clark of Tillypronie*, liked his clear; Mrs Beeton's seemed much thicker but required the use of almonds, lemon pickle and a calf's head, and I had sufficient family revolt on my hands already.

All recipes, of course, require the use of curry powder and I wonder whether this is a major cheat! Elizabeth David wrote: "To me they are unlikable, harshly flavoured, and possessed of an aroma clinging and as all-pervading in its way as that of English



PAUL HEINEY

HOME MADE

boiled cabbage or cauliflower." The alternative is to draw upon a blend of aniseed, cardamom, coriander, cumin, mustard seed, ginger, almond, turmeric... and many more, all of which need putting in a mortar and pestle and grinding by hand.

Then, given that most of us are not blessed with Miss David's delicate palate, you might almost end up with a curry powder that tastes as good as the stuff in the packet. As we were all hot enough already and an afternoon's spice-grinding looked as appealing as chopping firewood, I am grateful to the Patak family for their bottled curry pastes.

Now for the recipe, and here I am

grateful to Helen Steven, of Chorleywood, who possesses a secret hoard of recipes by H. W. Brand, who was a chef in a royal kitchen in the middle of the last century.

Among them is a recipe for mulligatawny soup which compares well with both Mrs Beeton's and that of Alexis Soyer, the famous French chef who made his name at the Reform Club, and of whom it was written: "The minute hand did not pass more regularly over the face of the clock than the assistants of Soyer revolved round him as the centre planet of their system."

This is very much my personal ambition; but far from revolving around me my entire family, threatened by soup, slunk off to various shady corners leaving me with one pound of chicken thigh pieces, butter, oil, an onion, a stick of celery, a carrot, a

tablespoon of flour, chicken stock and that pungent jar of curry paste. I glanced at the thermometer: 80F in the shade. The recipe invited me to sweat the chopped onion in the oil and butter but it seemed to be sweating of its own accord. Once it was cooked through, but not browned, I added the carrot and chopped celery and fried it all together till light brown. The heat rose, the dog started to pant. Then I added the chicken pieces till they were browned and cooked through, followed by a hefty tablespoon of that curry paste. When that hit the pan, thermometers for miles around trembled and the cat fled up a leafy tree for shade.

I stirred in the flour then slowly added the stock, fearing that it would go lumpy if I did not stir as if my life depended on it. I began to see images of oases in deserts and cried for water. Once stirred and boiled, I covered the pan and let it simmer for 30 minutes and went to lie down hoping a small boy with a fan would wait cooling air over me.

Typically for this summer, the evening turned out to be cool and damp and the family was very grateful for it.

Pumped up ices

LAST WEEKEND's heatwave has done no end of good for ice-cream sales. It may be naive, but not unrealistic, to hope that ice-cream is made from ice cream and not, apart from fruit or chocolate chips or whatever else you may fancy, nothing else. So next time you buy a tub, I suggest you look at the label.

On close inspection of Sainsbury's Indulgence range, I found emulsifiers (mono and diglycerides of fatty acids) and stabilisers (guar gum, xan-



HENRIETTA GREEN

DIGEST

than gum, locust bean gum). Most manufacturers insist they are necessary for shelf-life and texture — but I wonder. Rocombe Farm Fresh Ice-Cream, Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's do not use them. I think they muddy the flavour and leave a sticky taste in the mouth that — yes, you've guessed it — makes you thirsty for yet another ice-cream.

What's possibly more worrying is the "over-run" (ice-cream-speak for added air). Now you have to add air to ice-cream otherwise it would set rock hard, and it is the very air that gives ice-cream its light fluffy texture. But how much is acceptable? Some manufacturers go for as much as 120 per cent, which makes theirs a very fluffy product indeed; others, such as Marks & Spencer premium range and Rocombe Farm, add 30 per cent; Sainsbury's will not say how much it includes. Curiously, the manufacturers are under no obligation to declare the over-run on the tub.

The point is that ice-cream can be sold legally in Britain by volume rather than weight. This means a manufacturer can fill a tub up with an awful lot of air and no one will be any the wiser. Adding air to ice-cream is not a bad thing *per se* but I think we need to be told how much we are getting.

Class act

IF YOU think Lancashire cheese has no more to offer than a sharp flavour and a dry crumbly texture, then think again. Made with two and sometimes even three-day curds, proper Lancashire is rich and buttery with a honeyed, flower-fresh flavour.

A couple of weekends ago, while judging the cheese classes at the Great Eccleston Show near Blackpool, I tasted more than 50 Lancashires; several were seriously good. The winner of the traditional class was an 11-week cheese made by Caron Lodge and it was truly buttery with a light grassy sweetness.

The problem is that you can hardly ever buy these Lancashires out of the county; partly because Lancastrians know a good thing and hang on to it and partly because it is so rich, buttery and crumbly that it is almost impossible to pre-pack. What we end up with on the supermarket shelves are those acid cheeses that are no more than a pale imitation of the real thing and are so much easier to pack.

But now cheese specialist Peter Gott has answered our plight and for £4.50 (including postage and packing) will send a 1lb chunk of Caron Lodge's Lancashire (it might not be the actual winning cheese but it will be from a similar batch). He can be contacted at Stillfield Farm, Endmoor, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 0HZ (01539 567609).

Top seeds

HAS IT ALSO struck you just how boring our tomatoes are — even so-called vine tomatoes? Next year why not grow your own? You won't need much space, and a balcony or window sill can house as good a crop as a greenhouse. What is important is the variety of tomato you choose.

The Simpson's Seeds nursery grows most of its own seed



Ice-creams are light and fluffy because they contain "over-run" — up to 120 per cent of added air. But why can't we be told how much?

to sell either in packets or as plantlets. Every tomato variety is chosen for its flavour and is tasted by Mrs Simpson. Among her favourites this year are Noire Charbonneuse, an extraordinary dark-skinned, almost chocolate brown, tomato with a piercing flavour, and Mirabelle Blanche, which is completely white but divinely sweet.

Each year the Simpsons choose around 200 different varieties from their "library" of more than 2,000. They are still in the throes of compiling the 1997 catalogue, but if you send off a request with a first-class stamp, they will post one off as soon as it is ready, probably this autumn.

Write to Simpson's Seeds, 27 Meadowbrook, Old Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LT.

In a crush

UNTIL recently I happily bought refined sunflower oil from the supermarket, but I've just heard it will not do. The latest "must-have" is Girasole, an extra-virgin, cold-pressed sunflower oil.

At £3.99 a litre it is undoubtedly good for you. The oil is produced by crushing the whole seeds, rather than by the chemical process of extraction, and it has a low acid content. But I found it tasted earthy and far too intrusive. I think I'll stick with the blander, cheaper chemical version after all.

© Fiona Beckett is on holiday

More food and drink in the Magazine

Who would have thought...



...we would be spending our anniversary going back to the same hotel, after all these years.



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FAST FOOD

OLYMPIC DINNER

Serves six

Olympic calamari rings with garlic mayonnaise
Salmon and rocket
pasta salad
Bourbon syllabub

This dinner can be eaten in front of the television, but make sure the dishes are out of the way when the starting gun goes. You could start the evening with a lil' shot of the Southern States by serving Bourbon before dinner, on the rocks, with a mixer or in a cocktail like a Manhattan (2 parts bourbon to 1 part Vermouth, a dash of Angostura bitters, a maraschino cocktail cherry and plenty of ice).

■ **Make the syllabub**
Put 290ml (½ pint) whipping cream, 100ml (¾ oz) wine-glass sherry, 2tbs bourbon, 3tbs maple syrup and the juice of half an orange in a big bowl. Whisk until the cream can hold floppy peaks. Put into wine glasses and refrigerate.

■ **Make pasta salad**
Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Cook 400g (1½ lb) pasta shapes such as bows or shells according to packet instructions (generally about ten minutes). Put 250g (9oz) mangetouts in the pan to cook with the pasta for the last 2 minutes. Drain.
Meanwhile, heat a little oil in a frying pan until hot. Cook 700g (1½ lb) skinned



Shopping list

Fruit and vegetables
½ orange
250g (9oz) mangetouts
1½ lemons
2 large handfuls rocket
1 clove garlic

Savoury goods
400g (1½ lb) pasta shapes
6tbs extra-virgin olive oil
1 egg
50g (2oz) plain flour

Dairy
290ml (½ pint) whipping cream
3tbs mayonnaise

Meat and fish
700g (1½ lb) skinned salmon fillet
150g (5oz) smoked salmon
450g (1lb) calamari rings

Sweet goods
3tbs maple syrup

Drink
100ml (¾ oz) wine-glass sherry
2tbs bourbon
3 bottles white wine champagne on standby for a British win

salmon fillet for about 3-5 minutes on each side, depending on the thickness of the fillet.

Put 6tbs olive oil, the juice of 1 lemon, 2 large handfuls of rocket, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Put the drained pasta and mangetouts in the bowl and toss so they

are coated in the lemony olive oil. Break the salmon into chunks. Snip 150g (5oz) smoked salmon into strips. Mix the salmon and the smoked salmon into the pasta, taking care not to break up the fish too much.

■ **Prepare calamari and garlic mayonnaise**
You can buy ready-battered calamari or it's a seven-minute job to make your own. Heat up 1tbs oil in a frying pan. Dip 450g (1lb) calamari rings in a beaten egg and then in 50g (2oz) flour which has been seasoned with salt and pepper. Fry half the calamari on each side, until they are browned. Put onto a baking tray. Add more oil to the pan and fry the rest of the calamari. Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas mark 6.

Crush 1 clove of garlic and mix with 3 tbs mayonnaise and a squeeze of lemon in a serving bowl.

When you are ready to eat, put the calamari into the oven for a minute or two (and no more) to crisp up the outside. Serve with the mayonnaise. If the mood takes you, arrange the calamari on the plate like Olympic rings.

■ **Serve**
Put the pasta in bowls so you are less likely to spill. Syllabub always separates a little. Eat the cream with small spoons and spoon up or drink the liquid at the bottom of the glass. Open the champagne when Britain wins gold.

HATTIE ELLIS

Kew's big chill holds seeds of the future

Dedicated collectors are making sure endangered plants will be here for the next generation. Stephen Anderton met the men who scour the world for them

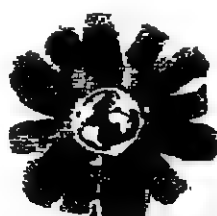
The Prince of Wales recently planted a Plymouth pear, one of Britain's rarest trees, at Kew Gardens, to mark the launch of Kew's Millennium Seedbank Appeal. By 2000, Kew intends to have collected and frozen for posterity seeds of all 1,400 of Britain's native plants.

The collection will be housed at its garden at Wakehurst Place in Sussex. By 2010, it hopes to have collected seed of a further 10 per cent of the world's flora, or 25,000 species. Some projects, some fridges. Michiel Van Slageren, a Dutchman, is one of Kew's field collectors, whose job it is to bring back seed. At 41 he is not the youngest of collectors. Collecting is a tough business, demanding independence and physical stamina on long, difficult field trips but it also requires a broad experience of the subject. It is no use setting off with a smile and spotted hanky on a stick to bring back the world's flora, you have to plan what to expect, what will be important, and what will be bearing seed when you get there.

The first question must be where to collect, the world is a big place after all. Everyone knows about the threats to rain forests, and the speed of their decline. With scientists predicting that 25 per cent of the world's flora will be extinct in 50 years, time is short but Kew has chosen to concentrate instead on the semi-arid tropical regions. They may be less juicy, less pretty on film than the rainforests, but they support a quarter of the world's human population.

Semi-arid floras are Mr Van Slageren's speciality. Before coming to Kew in 1995, he spent six years working at the International Agricultural Institute in Syria. At present there are two collectors, Mr Van Slageren and Michael Way, who specialises in the semi-arid areas of the New World.

As the new Millennium Seedbank project develops however, another 25 collectors will join them, boldly going to countries across the globe, one month at a time planning with the help of the Kew computer database, the next month out in the field. It may do a lot for the world, but as Mr Van Slageren admits, it does not do much for his family life. Kew has received £21.5 million



millennium
seed bank
appeal
kew

from the Millennium Commission for the project. The telecommunications firm, Orange, has pledged £2.5 million over the next ten years. But it still needs a further £7.3 million to collect and secure the future of the seeds. The appeal, whose patron is Sir David Attenborough, is seeking individual donations of £15 or more from anyone who will help.

But what is the use of all that

seed? When Mr Van Slageren comes back with his 50 kilo sack of seeds, from palm seeds the size of your fist to those as fine as dust, what happens to it all?

Even at its present size the Kew Seedbank receives three or four requests for seed per day, for scientific research in different countries. Various species of pea (*Lathyrus*) have been used in investigating treatment for Parkinson's

disease. (Never a bad idea to have a packet of frozen peas in the freezer perhaps?)

Bidens pilosa, a relative of the yellow *Bidens ferrugifolia* that we use in hanging baskets, may be about to provide an effective treatment for ringworm, which plagues so much of Africa.

Acacias are being used to reforest degraded areas in Uganda, providing fuel, building materials and

fodder to the local people, and bringing a halt to rapid soil erosion. Uses such as these are why seedbanks are so important. They can provide a means of remaking a human habitat, not just adding a few more years to the average Western lifespan. Seeds stored safely "help keep our options open", as Kew puts it.

But doesn't it seem a little odd that the seedbank for semi-arid

regions is to be in England? Does it not sound just a bit like a last twitch of Empire? Mr Van Slageren has no objections to the project, and he is not even British. Much of the work cannot be done without the complete co-operation of countries involved and their scientific bodies. More than 20 of the 27 seed collectors will be from collaborating countries.

Kew aims to advise and assist on the establishment of seedbanks in other countries. Most Middle Eastern countries are quickly learning the need for seedbanks and have their own already.

Countries with their own seedbanks will keep part of the collection there, and only seed from countries as yet without seedbanks will be kept in its entirety by Kew. And there is no question of making profits from the natural resources of another country. This is science, not politics.

Curious, though, that for all its scientific credentials, the project is unashamedly about saving plants not for their own sake but for their value to man and our environment. I find that refreshingly hard-headed, and honest.

Saving plants from extinction on this scale may be something of a rear-guard action, but it is wonderfully positive endeavour. Kew will certainly be getting my £15.

● The Millennium Seedbank Appeal is inviting members of the public to make a donation of £15 by ringing 0973 10 2000 or writing to the appeal at PO Box 4370, London SW15 2PF.



Michiel Van Slageren, a collector, in Kew's massive seed cold store. Inset, the *Argemone Mexicana*, or Mexican poppy, which was traced for the Millennium appeal

THE FLOWERS

DOES Michiel Van Slageren not lose his horticultural heart to a rare exotic species every now and then? Apparently not. His fascination with the project is that of a botanist, whose job it is to find and collect specific plants, impersonal as a heat-seeking missile. Kew-speak for the process is "capturing the germplasm". But, when pressed, Van Slageren will admit that there is a place for one or two of his proteges in British gardens, despite the difference in climate.

Among the plants he has been required to collect are the annual herbaceous *Amaranthus hybridus*, from Saudi Arabia, a fodder plant; but with the usual flower plumes of the genus, and *Argemone Mexicana*, the Mexican poppy. What a wonderful annual this is: glaucous grey leaves, startling papery yellow flowers, and prickly seed pods which dry beautifully. He has also collected *Lawsonia inermis*, an ornamental tree in hotter climates and also of commercial importance; its crushed leaves are the source of henna, used for dyeing hair the world over.

HOW MOTHER NATURE HAS THE LAST LAUGH ON CELEBRITIES WHO PLANT TREES

Kevin Keegan signs footballs for charity, Phil Collins signs drumsticks, and royalty plant trees. But why? Well it is an inexpensive piece of PR for all concerned. Twenty pounds for the tree and an hour's effort for a gardener and 20 seconds' effort for the celebrity. Perhaps £80 for the plaque itself. Oh, and a photo-opportunity worth thousands. "Give me just your name, and you can be up there in wood for the next 400 years."

Beside the church at Preen Manor in Shropshire there is an ancient yew tree with a modern plaque which says: "This yew is believed to have been planted in approximately 457 AD, and thought to be the oldest tree in Europe." Maybe it was planted by King Ethelbert the Green, but it is the tree and not his name which has survived. The oral tradition can be endearingly selective. Memorial planting, com-

plete with plaque, only really began in the 19th century under Queen Victoria. Before that there were trees attributed to people's lives—planted during the reign of, planted during the tenure of, but not by the fair hands of.

Since Victoria, even the spades used by royalty to plant trees have been given plates saying who did what with them. A well-used ceremonial spade can have more brass plates screwed to it than the hull of a tea clipper.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were avid planters. Memorial planting accorded with the Victorian taste for sentimentality. At her house at Osborne, on the Isle of Wight, she and Prince Albert seem to have had every visiting member of the family or European royalty plant a tree, almost before they had time to unpack for the weekend. Births, wed-

dings, any excuse was good enough. Did they see it as a form of self-immortalisation, as a means of the name outlasting the life? Or was it just the desire to share the making of a very personally inspired garden? Queen Victoria would have disagreed with Philip Larkin: what will remain of us is not only love, but wood.

But nature has had the last laugh. Go to some of the great southern gardens, and look in potting-shed cupboards and in gardeners' yards. See the forlorn heaps of redundant plaques lying out of sight, deprived of their trees and their reason by the great storms of the late 1980s. There is nothing sadder in a garden than these corroding little ossuaries, proof if it were needed that, in the end, Mother Nature will always get the upper hand.

Her Majesty would not have been amused.



The Princess of Wales digs in

Rocky road to artificial gardens

We can learn
from limestone
by leaving it
just where
it belongs —
in the wild

It could be said that Reginald Farrer's book, *The Rock Garden* (1912), was the inspiration for the explosion of natural rock gardens in the 1930s. It might also be said that the book unwittingly initiated the stripping of limestone pavements in northwest England.

Farrer, who lived at Ingleton, Yorkshire, would be appalled to know that 80 years later the conservation charity, Plantlife, is launching an appeal to buy land near Farrer's old home. Winskill Stones, to halt the stripping of limestone outcrops. The time has come to stop using this material in gardens. Water-worn limestone pavements are more use to gardeners left where they are—as a lesson in how plants grow better in difficult conditions—than turned into artificial rock gardens.

I was born a few miles the other side of Winskill Stones and took such phenomena for granted. Only in recent years have I realised how fascinating is the plant life of these fissured pavements.

Fissures run through the rock in both directions, making a gigantic chequerboard. In places you can drop a line several yards down a fissure before it is obstructed, so the drainage is super-sharp. Yet plants survive in the fissures. The lime-loving harts-tongue fern, *Asplenium scolopendrium*, takes root in the smallest of dust-filled shady pockets, and survives by keeping its roots cool if not moist, and drawing what moisture it can from the stone. There are rarer ferns, too, seen almost nowhere else and particularly adapted to life in these dry, highly alkaline conditions. The rigid budler fern is one, *Dryopteris submontana*, a visually unprepossessing rela-

tive of the male fern. Conservationists will shout for its protection, and rightly so, but for gardeners the harts-tongues are more elegant. Among the pavements are more colourful plants, too. The dark-red helleborine, bloody cranesbill and angular Solomon's seal. They survive in shallow fissures where a scraping of soil has accumulated. More fascinating are little holly and ash trees, only a few inches high, which may be as much as 150 years old. Lack of nutrition and water, and nibbling by rabbits, have reduced them to dwarfed trees. Not as graceful as bonsai, but just as venerable.

Unlike the roots of artificial bonsai trees, the pavement trees will have roots yards long, snaking their way down into the fissures in search of moisture. The "bristlecone" pines of the western American desert employ the same technique, sending down roots ten times the height of the tree, and living in the cruelest of conditions for as long as 5,000 years.

See these pavements, and you will not want to spoil them for the sake of a garden imitation. And, being honest, when did you see even the most cleverly constructed rock garden look natural surrounded by house and lawn? There

are plenty of alternatives to water-worn limestone, which are just as useful for making alpine plants look happy. If your taste is for great chunks of stone, then artificial sandstone can be bought from the larger garden centres, and it is remarkably convincing.

A scree is often more useful as a growing medium, and it is more easily contrived using gravel or crushed stone waste. Slate scree is very attractive and weedproof. Visiting the slate quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog last summer, I was thrilled to see parsley fern, *Cryptogramma crispata*, growing from slate rubble. Its roots were obviously long, for none of it was remotely extractable. Perhaps someone can make a living selling slate rubble to gardeners outside Wales?

The advantage of scree is that it need not be an imitation of nature. It can be as formal as you like. A scree garden also does not present the problem of resetting stones if an infestation of difficult weeds occurs. Talk to anyone who has tried to clean up an old couch-infested rock garden, even with glyphosate, and see how they struggle.

I hope I am persuading you not to buy water-worn limestone for your garden. Remember the gang last year who passed themselves off as council workmen and stole a whole York-stone pavement from a northern town centre? That was nowhere near as exciting as a limestone pavement. The natural ones are irreplaceable.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

● The Winskill Stones Appeal. Plantlife, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.



Water-worn limestone should always be left in the wild

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GARDENING

5

Piano garden hits right note

Gardens to visit

Blickling Hall, Aylsham, Norfolk (01263 733084)

One and half miles northwest of Aylsham, north of B1354. Open daily except Mon to Nov 3. 11am-5pm. £3.20, children £1.60.

The first view of Blickling, between massive 300-year-old yew hedges to one of England's most delightful gabled Jacobean houses, is one to savour at any time but the garden is particularly worth visiting in late July and August for the four great square beds of the parterre. During the 1930s the planting of these beds was reorganised by the distinguished gardener Norah Lindsay, and the National Trust has remained faithful to her scheme. The colours are carefully planned, with cream and yellow predominating in beds closest to the house and red, blue and pink in the others. Yew topiary, clipped into tall cones and grand planes, along with urns and a central fountain surrounded by borders of roses, complete the impressive design of this part of the garden. Steps lead from the parterre to the long vista through woodland to a Doric temple. South of the house is Samuel Wyatt's elegant late-18th century conservatory where a display of half-hardy plants is a feature.

Arley Hall, or Great Budworth, Northwich, Cheshire (01565 777353)

Five miles west of Knutsford, off A50, one mile southeast of Warrington off A49, signed from M6 and M56. Open April to Sept. Tues to Sun and Bank Hols. 12 noon-5pm (last entry 4.30pm). £3.30, children £1.25, under-fives free.

Arley Hall's double herbaceous borders that stretch for nearly 100 yards from wrought-iron gates, are one of the country's most memorable summer garden features. Blocks of herbaceous plants in well-planned associations of flower and foliage are divided by buttresses of clipped yew that extend from the brick wall backing one border and the long yew hedge backing the other. As remarkable as anything, however, is their age: they appear on a garden plan of 1846. Another important and equally old feature is the avenue of holm oaks clipped into tall cylindrical towers. As well as the impeccable maintenance of these long-established highlights, there has been considerable



The parterre garden at Blickling Hall, Norfolk, was laid out in the 1930s by Norah Lindsay and the National Trust has kept to her theme

development of the gardens in recent decades and a series of small enclosures include a wonderful scented garden and a herb garden. The walled kitchen garden has been simplified and contains a display of cordoned fruit trees, as well as mixed shrub and herbaceous borders. One of the most rewarding areas developed by the present generation is the magnificent woodland garden.

Hilton Court, Roch, Haverfordwest, Dyfed (01437 710262)

A487 St David's Road from Haverfordwest, three-quarters of a mile beyond Simpson Cross to Hilton on left. Open March to Oct daily, 10am-6pm, weekends Nov to Feb. Free (voluntary donation to charity).

Gardening enthusiasts on holiday in Pembrokeshire should visit Hilton Court, following the winding coast road that has memorable views over St Bride's Bay. The house is 18th-century, but the garden was created during the past seven years. The most impressive feature is the view across the garden and series of interlinking lakes that have been created from the existing stream, to a

backdrop of woodland. At this time of year the lakes have a spectacular display of aquatic plants, in particular enormous gunners. Closer to the house large island beds are overflowing with herbaceous plants, many of them unusual such as the callistemon or 'bottle-brush', which flourishes on the coast and is in flower during late summer. In the nursery an intriguing speciality are plants resistant to wind and spray, suitable for seaside gardening.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

Correction: Bosvigo House gardens, Truro, Cornwall (Weekend, July 20) are open 11am-6pm, March-Sept, Weds-Sat. The owner, Mrs Perry, specialises in, and sells, hardy geraniums.

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Sow spring cabbage and winter spinach in the ground. Line out young plants of winter and savoy cabbages.
■ Rest Christmas cacti for a month by standing them in a shady place without water, indoors or out. Any minor shrivelling will disappear when you begin to water again in September.

■ Watch out for red spider mite damage in hot glasshouses. Treat by biological control and increase humidity to make conditions less favourable.
■ Continue to give liquid feed fortnightly to large-flowered clematis.
■ If lawns must be watered, soak them thoroughly.
■ Water dry compost heaps to keep them active.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q The alder trees on the banks of our stream sprout many young shoots from the trunk's base. How can we seal the cut ends after trimming to prevent regrowth? — T. Harman Smith, Isle of Wight.

A No amount of sealing of the cuts will prevent further sprouts from coming from below and beside the previous sprouts. The best answer is to cut late and low. Leave it until bud-burst and cut as low and right to the trunk as you can. Tight cutting allows you to rub off the new shoots mid season while they are still soft. On small trees try cauterising the cuts with a hot poker, to see if the dormant buds could be killed and the surrounding cambium persuaded to heal.

Q Two years ago I transplanted some clumps of butcher's broom, *Ruscus aculeatus*, from the south of France. It has taken reasonably well, with a moderate amount of new growth, but has not flowered. Now I want to transplant it to another part of the garden, preferably shady. What is the best way of doing this? can I break up the clumps, and when is the best time to do this? — T.L. Conboy, Bath, Avon.

A Butcher's broom is an oddity, a woody evergreen member of the lily family. The 20-30 stems last for about three years and make thickets of spiny foliage. Like most of the lily family it does not like careless disturbance. The best time to divide it is in

spring. It will survive in dry rooty shade, but establishing it there is another matter. Decent soil in shade is more rewarding. Once established, it can be left without disturbance, simply cutting out dead stems and feeding every few years to keep it strong.

Q We planted our "Brown Turkey" fig, as instructed, on a sheltered, south-facing wall five years ago. Two years later we started to train it diagonally. But we would like more growth low down the trunk and not just enormous piles of leaves at the top of the 6ft wall. How do we encourage it to be bushier? Should we prune it? — Miss J. Brasher, Haslemere, Surrey.

A A restricted root run hemmed in by bricks or paving slabs helps to reduce growth and encourage shorter, flowering growth but off is quite low for a fig and you may struggle to keep it down. Figs on walls need regular pruning to keep them in hand and productive — pinching tips, tying in and thinning of shoots. Reduce a third of the stems to 20-30 in February for three years, and pinch and tie in the resulting lower shoots.

Q Readers with gardening problems should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E14 6RN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered with our legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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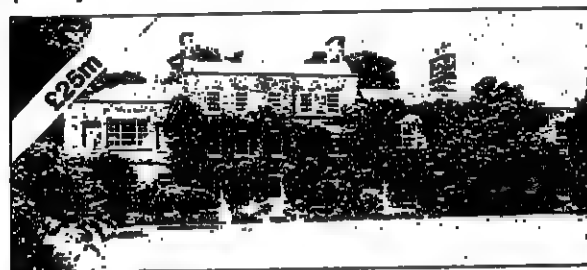
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FRANCE
Château de Gisors, Normandy. Restored belle époque villa, in 2.5 acres of formal landscaped gardens, with swimming pool, waterfalls and fountains, overlooking the Mediterranean. Six en suite bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room. Staff quarters and three-car garage. About £8.5 million (Sotheby's International Realty, 0171-314 4443).

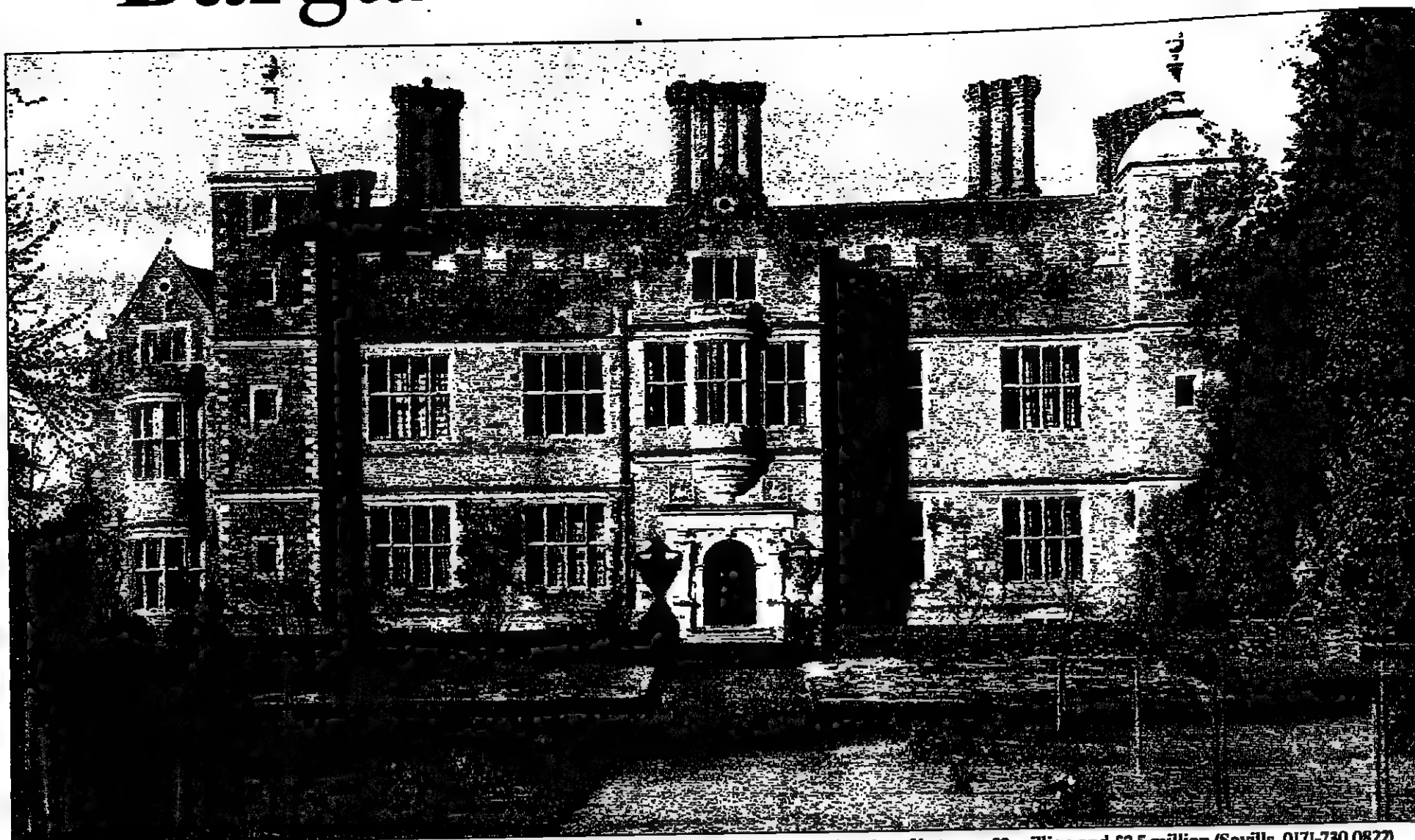


FRANCE
Le Scoglio, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. Former home of David Niven and the summer residence of Charlie Chaplin, in 2,500 acres of garden, overlooking La Baie des Fourmis and Beaulieu, with direct water frontage. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms, one ensuite, three reception rooms, library, kitchen and three-bedroom staff flat. Swimming pool, summer house and boat dock. Offers over £10m (Sotheby's International Realty, 0171-314 4443).



LONDON
Aubrey House and 15, 17 and 19, Aubrey Walk, Kensington, W8. Grade II listed Georgian house at Campden Hill in a two-acre garden adjoining Holland Park. Main house: 14 bedrooms, seven bathrooms, 11 reception rooms. Terrace of three houses with seven bedrooms, five bathrooms and end eight reception rooms. About £25 million (Knight Frank, 0171-499 4811).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Chilham Castle, near Canterbury, Kent, which has been reduced by £1 million and now has a guide price of between £2 million and £2.5 million (Savills, 0171-730 0822)

Roll up, roll up for the sale of the century. A crop of castles is being offered at bargain basement prices. A million pounds has been slashed off the price of Chilham Castle in Kent, more than £500,000 has been knocked off Appleby Castle, in Cumbria and there are cuts of thousands of pounds on several Scottish castles.

Buyers, it seems, are resisting the lure of rolling acres and ramparts, turrets and towers in the shires against a tiny flat in Fulham. Has the castle market collapsed? Estate agents, ever optimistic,

Cut-price castles are the sale of the century both north and south of the border, says Rachel Kelly

say no. Nick Sweeting, from Savills, says: "It is true that in 1992, at the absolute bottom of the market, this sort of property was virtually unsaleable but since autumn 1994 the market has picked up." There is nothing wrong with the market, he says, it is just that the unsold houses were wrongly priced.

True to his trade, he defends estate agents getting their

prices wrong. "By their very nature, these are difficult properties to price. You are trying to work out who the end-user will be. Will it be an institution? Will the house be split into flats? Some might think these houses were tremendous white elephants, but to someone else they are tremendous opportunities."

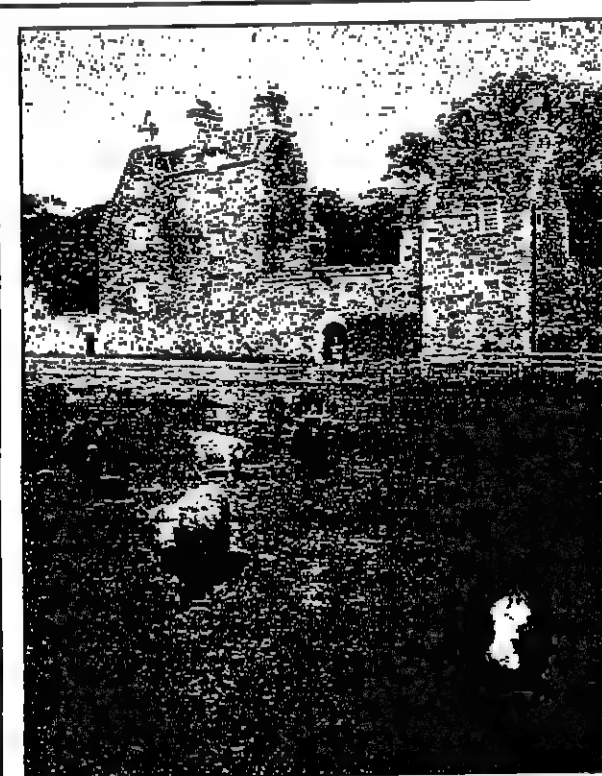
It is a question of matching unique houses with one-off buyers. "Conditions can change. The client can change what they want or a property can suddenly get planning permission. Many of these castles are listed, and that can put developers off," Mr Sweeting says.

One likely fate for huge piles in the South of England is conversion into flats. That proved the solution for both St Michael's School in Penworth, Sussex, which sold in less than a year for £2.5 million through Savills last year, and Pepper Harrow, in Surrey, another school which sold for £3.25 million after two years last year. They may not be castles, but they are similar in size and are often viewed as similar white elephants, says Mr Sweeting. "We would put them in the same category."

Other keen castle-buyers — often Middle Easterners — are those looking for a status symbol. Castle Hill, a huge castellated pile in Surrey sold to a Middle Eastern buyer. Another Middle Eastern potentate was close to buying Chilham, the former home of Viscount Massereene and Ferrard, in Chilham village near Canterbury, which also attracted interest from Mick Jagger. The date of 1616 inscribed above the front door was regarded as a lucky number.

The Chilham estate, for sale as a whole or in three lots, includes extensive grounds, two lodge cottages, outbuildings and a stable yard with planning permission for 21 homes.

Richard Smith of Chesterton's, the agents selling



Earlshall Castle, near St Andrews in Fife, has been reduced to £575,000, from £640,000. The property is for sale through Savills, 0131-226 6961

Appleby, says: "It just needs the right buyer to come along." After two years, however, he admits he is concerned. "It is disappointing to go more than a year without a sale, but after two it is slightly worrying," he says. Appleby is partly dogged by the fact that it was converted for use as a company headquarters. It also has a high price tag for the area.

The market for Scottish castles is different. The bulk of castles on the market, naturally enough, Domestic unrest had all but died in the south after the civil war, but it continued among the clans further north until the 1745 rebellion, and even then outbursts continued. Thus, while every English village has its manor, every Scottish hamlet has its castle.

Of course "castle" in Scotland covers everything from a small tower defending 1,000 acres to Beaufort, the former home of the Frasers of Lovat in Inverness-shire, which was

the epicentre of a clan area, "built to show off to the neighbours," says William Jackson from Knight Frank.

Mr Jackson also denies that the market has collapsed. "We have sold plenty of castles. Last year, we sold Stobs Castle in Peebles-shire, which went on the market in the summer and was sold by December for £300,000. We sold Davidston, near Turriff in Banffshire, for around the same amount. And, of course, we sold Beaufort last year, to Ann Gloag, the Scottish businesswoman and power behind the Stagecoach empire."

But some castles have stuck on the market. Mr Jackson admits. Sometimes it is because the seller refuses to reduce the price and is not desperate to sell. Kames castle, for example, has been stuck at £520,000 for two years. But do agents get the prices wrong? "I think it is more that demand changes and clients change what they want," Mr Jackson says.

The answer may be to

HIGH BILLS

■ Though castles are reasonably cheap to buy per square foot, keep an eye on maintenance costs which are high because the properties are so large.

■ Ask for the previous year's heating bills. Yearly bills at Earlshall for electricity, heating, housekeepers and gardeners are about £25,000; the figure ignores any repairs.

■ Castles with businesses may help offset costs. Appleby Castle for example, was previously a corporate headquarters and could lend itself to a business use. The costs at Earlshall are offset by letting a cottage in the grounds, and income from visitors to the garden. Kames Castle is run in separate units and each building is supplied with amenities only when necessary. It has an annual turnover of £35,000 from five lettings on the estate.

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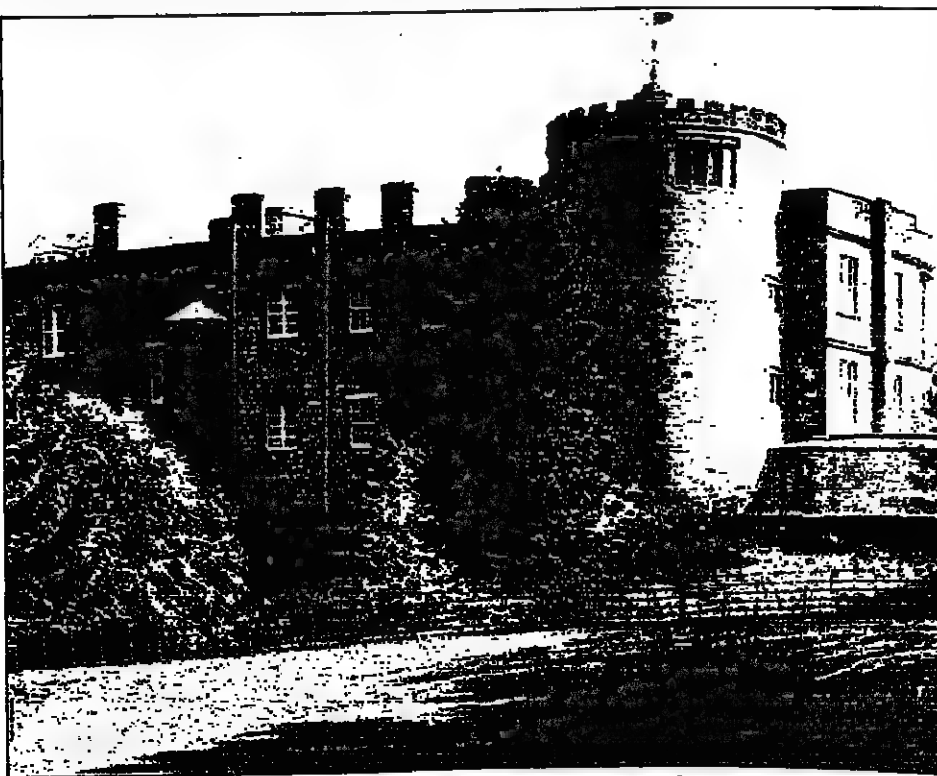
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Appleby Castle in Cumbria, which has been on the market for two years, has been reduced from £1.5 million to £975,000. The property is Norman, with 17th-century additions, and includes several small lodges (Chesterton's, Leeds, 0113-242 0044)

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WHAT TREVE

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Lincolnshire is a largely forgotten county, too far for weekenders and commuters to London, but it has appeal and excellent prices



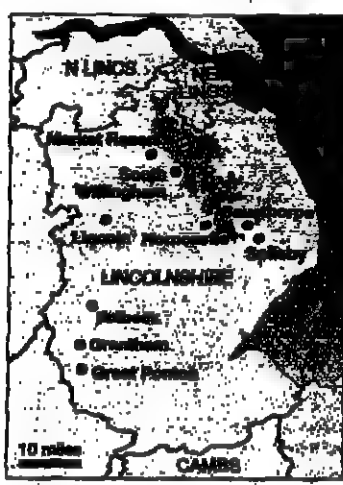
The Jungle, built by an eccentric animal-lover near Lincoln, has been described as worthy of Gaudi

Period charm in Tennyson's county

Anyone wanting to capture the spirit of rural Ireland in England would do well to consider Lincolnshire. As Bob Baggett of agents Mawer Mason and Bell in Market Rasen says: "Three cars make a traffic jam in Lincolnshire, the sole exception being race day at Market Rasen. I come from the south, but I wouldn't go back down there for all the tea in China. It is so peaceful here, people have time to talk to you."

Not surprisingly, the tranquil pace coupled with the relatively low prices of property make Lincolnshire a big retirement location, says Erica Czajkowski of Bairdson Eves. "About 70 per cent of our buyers are southerners. They like the laid-back pace of life. The relatively unspoilt countryside is also an attraction. Often, our clients are selling a terraced house in the south to buy a larger property in Lincolnshire for less money to release capital." As Tony Barratt, also of Mawer Mason and Bell, says: "It is the cheapest county in the country. Road travel is simple, there is good shopping and parking is easy."

A good example of what £155,000 can buy in Lincolnshire is Linden House on offer through Bairdson Eves. It is a good sized six-bed-

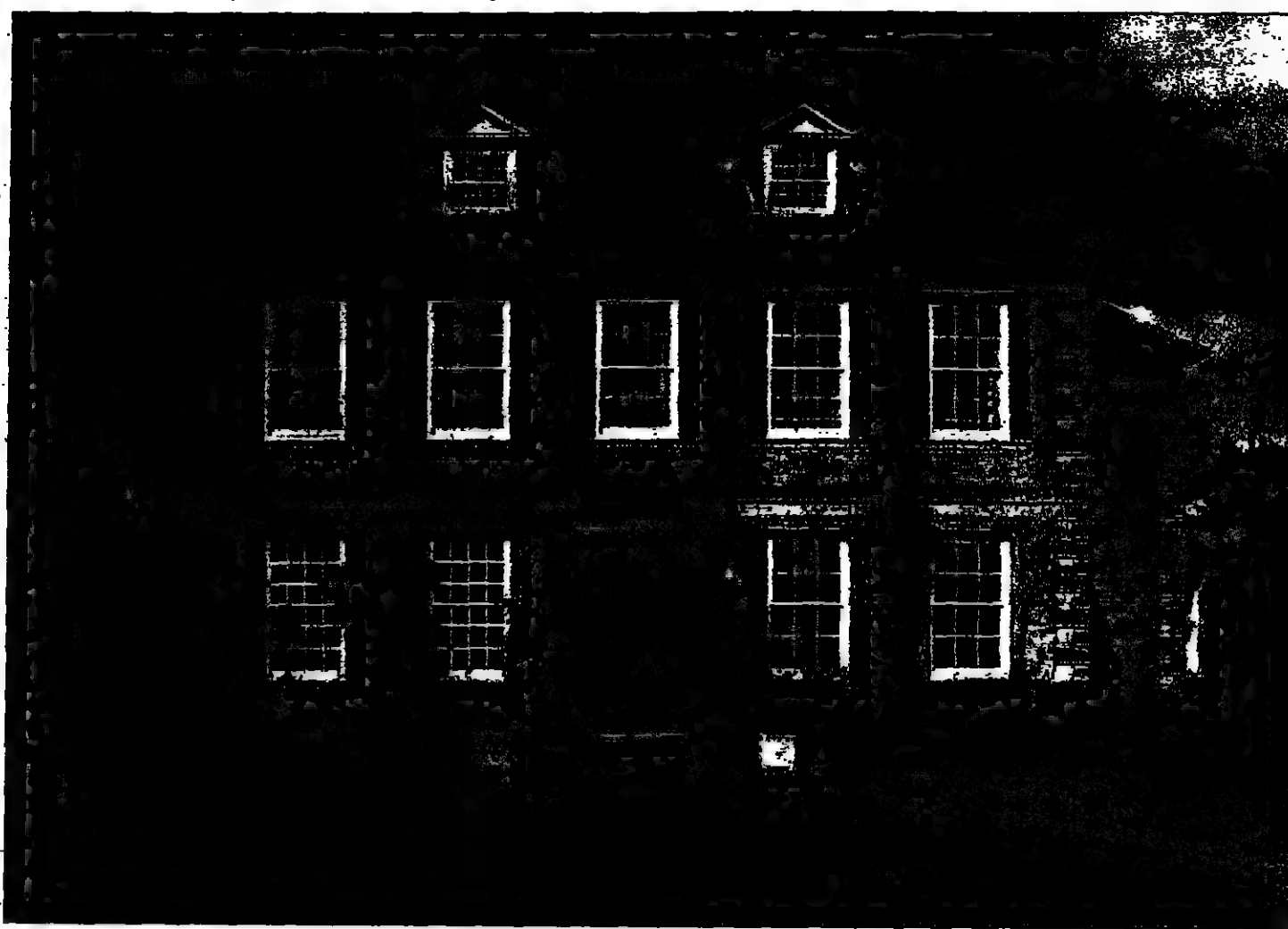


roomed house, roofed last year with useful outbuildings, including ample stabling, in the village of Sausthorpe at the foot of the Wolds, four miles from Spilsby and eight miles from Horncastle. Horncastle is an old-fashioned market town where it is still possible to buy local specialties such as "churn", cured ham stuffed with parsley. For £140,000 Mawer Mason and Bell is selling the six-bedroomed Old Vicarage at Sibthill, a hamlet near Market Rasen, with four acres.

Also on its books are several

good-value period houses in Tealby, one of the prettiest villages in the Wolds. The Wolds, birthplace of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, are designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty. Linden House is a four-bedroomed classic Georgian village house for sale at £129,950. Another attractive property is a stone, four-bedroomed cottage within the conservation area of Tealby in Church Lane. Tealby has a good junior school, a thriving village shop, a bowling green and tennis courts. The ending "by" or "thorpe" in village names are a legacy of the Danish invasion and it became part of Danelaw in 886. Tealby is also not far from Humberside airport, which has good links to continental Europe. A more unusual home is The Chapel at South Willingham in the Wolds, for sale at £99,000. Surprisingly large for a former chapel, it consists of four bedrooms, a study, a kitchen, a sun lounge and a studio room.

"Lincolnshire is just too far for most weekenders, being a 2½-hour journey from London," Tony Barratt says. This, of course, helps to explain the charm of this largely forgotten corner of England. But even near Grantham, where it is possible to commute to London (trains to Kings Cross take one



Fulbeck House, in the stone village of the same name near Grantham, is a Grade II listed building, which dates from about 1700

hour 13 minutes), the prices are still competitive. "The area around Grantham is also becoming increasingly popular with commuters to Nottingham, which is about an hour's drive," says Kate Murgatroyd, of Humbers. Humbers is selling Fulbeck House in the pretty stone village of Fulbeck near Grantham. Listed Grade II, the house dates from about 1700 with later additions. "Houses like this near Grantham are few and far between, most are owned by families who have had them for a long time and want to hang on to them," Charles Welby says.

The size of the property might deter prospective purchasers: the main accommodation comprises five to six bedrooms with two two-bedroomed wings, which together with a cottage can be let on assured short-term tenancies for up to

£9,000 a year. In addition there is a coach house, which was granted planning permission in 1987 for change of use to a dwelling and the construction of an access road. But permission has since lapsed. Offers in the region of £450,000 are being sought for the whole lot, although it is also being offered in two lots — lot 1 for £375,000 (the main house and 2.3 acres of garden) and lot 2, which is not available until lot 1 has been sold (the cottage, the stable, walled garden and 0.2 acres).

Witham House, Langrick Bridge, is another extremely handsome 18th-century house, which is listed Grade II and standing in 5.9 acres. A notable feature is the magnificent garden, containing a number of fine specimen trees. It also has a lodge,

garages, outbuildings and greenhouses and is on offer for £310,000. A few miles from Boston, and 35 miles from Peterborough, it has good rail connections with London.

For those in search of a truly eccentric house, it would be hard to beat The Jungle, near Lincoln. The front is a whimsical ivy-clad folly with Gothic windows and little clue of what lurks behind it: a regimented rectilinear design, with prominent square bays, built during the 1970s. This is more akin to a redbrick polytechnic, a testimony perhaps to the folly of unenlightened planners.

Originally built about 1820 by an eccentric called Samuel Russell Collett to house his menagerie, which included buffalo, kangaroos and deer, it is described by Pevsner in the Lincolnshire volume of *The Buildings of England* as "a sham-

castle folly facade, spidery and vegetable-like, an ancestor of Gaudi if ever there was one".

There are seven bedrooms, five bathrooms, not to mention an indoor swimming pool and an all-weather tennis court. Set in eight and half acres, £550,000 is being asked by Walters of Lincoln, and Strutt & Parker.

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● Bairdson Eves, 10 The Market Place, Horncastle (01507 52878).
● Humbers, 14 Finkin Street, Grantham (01476 57613).
● Mawer Mason and Bell, 27 The Market Place, Market Rasen (01673 843303). Branches also in Calster, Brigg and Louth.
● Strutt & Parker, Spalding House, 12 London Road, Grantham (01476 505385).
● Walters, 1 Mint Lane, Lincoln (01522 525454).



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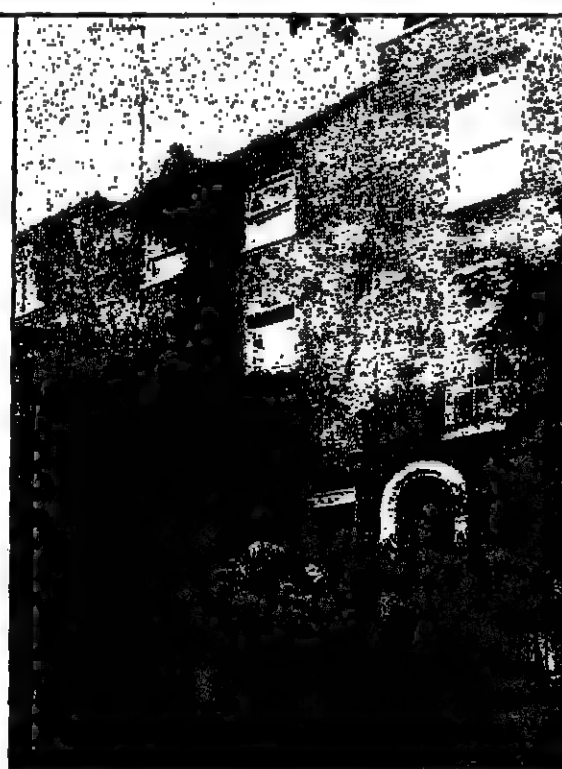
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HAMPSHIRE - Upham Price Guide: £345,000

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HAMPSHIRE
Bolder,
Winchester 8 miles

Forming part of a courtyard group of cottages converted from the former stables and coach house to Stratton House. 3 beds, shower rm, bath, 2 recep., kit, parking space, west facing gardens.

Price Guide:
£150,000

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HAMPSHIRE - Hursley Winchester 6 miles Romsey 4¼ miles
An exceptional listed 17th century house, superbly restored and set in about 6.27 ha (15.5 acres). 6 beds, dressing area, 3 baths, shower rm, 4 recep., kit, cellar, s/c acreage of 2 beds, bath, recep., kitchen/dining rm. Garaging, outbuildings, formal gardens, paddocks, pasture, woodland. WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

HAMPSHIRE
Bolder,
Near Lymington

A light, well presented house with views over the Bolder Valley. 5 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep., kit, sun rm, utility, garage, garden & Forest Right of Pasture. About 0.12 ha (0.3 acres).

ISA: Paul Jackson
01590 674411

Price Guide:
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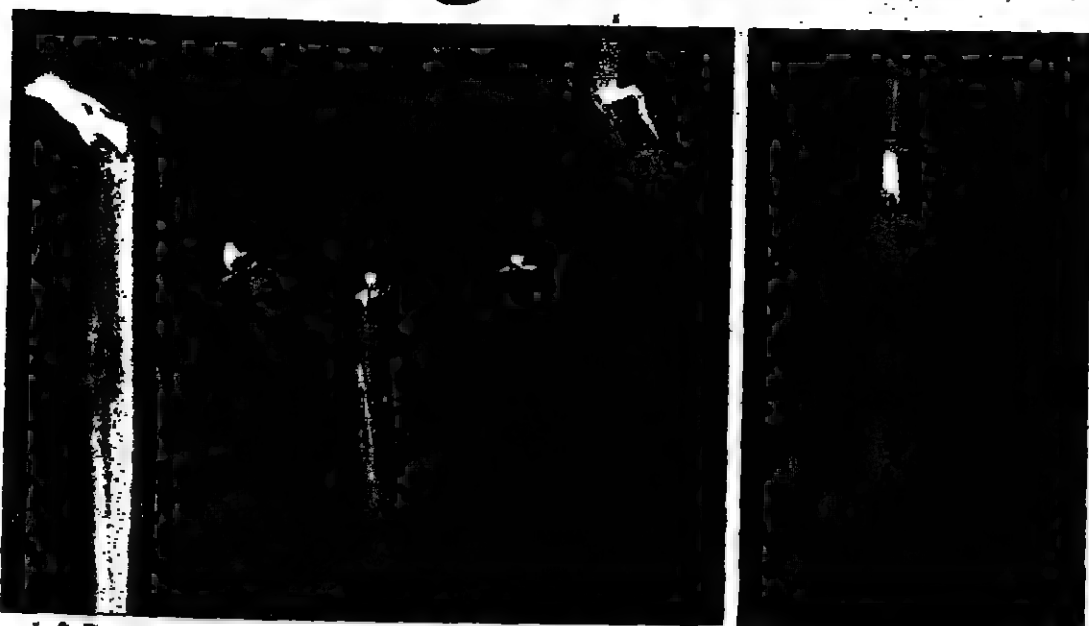
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SHOPPING

9

Light fantastic for dining al fresco



Left: Brats' vegetable flares flanked by a pair from Heals (all £3.95). Right: Angelic wall sconce (£7.95)

Lantern glow and candlelight can transform your garden and table

Outdoor dining in Britain has always required the "If wet, in church hall" approach and lightning reactions as summery morsels are whipped off plates by the wind. But we British are a hardy breed, determined to sit and eat outside, even if it means donning wax jacket and balacava. Optimists should prepare now for outdoor soires and invest in some of the lighting that can transform Clapham into Capri, Barnsley into Barbados.

Flares and staked candleholders can be moved as the wind changes and make inexpensive garden glamorisers. The Pier's melon-shaped "captured glass" — glass "captured" in a metal cage (£12.95) — with shepherd's crook metal stake (£3.95) will fit in with any garden style and casts an attractively irregular light.

For a South Sea Island feel,

LIGHT BOX

- Angelic 194 Kings Road, SW3. 0171-267 9299 for branches.
- Brats: 281 Kings Road, SW3. 0171-351 7674.
- Carpenter's Queensway, W2. 01993 778008 for branches.
- The General Trading Company: 144 Sloane Street, SW1. 0171-730 0411 for branches.
- Habitat Kings Road, SW3. 0645 334433 for branches.
- John Cullen Lighting: 585 Kings Road, SW6. 0171-371 5400.
- McCord: 0181-727 3000 for catalogue.
- The Pier: 200 Tottenham Court Road, W1. 0171-351 7100 for branches.
- John Lewis: Oxford Street, W1. 0171-629 7711 for branches.

choose brightly-coloured flares. Heals has excellent full-sized ones (£3.95), or you can get miniature ones in brazen pink, purple, green and orange (£5p) from Angelic. Alternatively, consider durable parafin-lit bamboo flares (£5-£12.95), excellent value from The General Trading Company (GTC).

Steady chic can be achieved with galvanised metal lights. Hang the Pier's hexagonal lanterns (£8.95) from (not-too-dry)-trees, or suspend them above your dining table. Use Heals' metal and glass stake storm lanterns (£17.95) in beds and urns. Light the table itself with candle-

holders with glass tubes (£15) to protect the candles from John Lewis, or the McCord catalogue's simple metal and glass hurricane lamp (£24.95). The last word in metal lanterns is the GTC's Dome Lantern (£90) from Morocco, which will invest the proceedings with a definite kasbah touch.

Speaking of which, midnight at the oasis is another fashionable look. Plant Angelic's terracotta pot stake lights with cut-out palm trees (£14.95) in urns and herbaceous borders, and use its pyramid-shaped night light covers (£8.95) for the centre of your table.

If your style of choice is Mediterranean glass-and-wrought-iron, the unmissable candleholder is Angelic's stunning 53in votive tree, £99 — an elegantly curvaceous wrought iron tree with seven clear-glass votive candleholders. For your table centre, look at McCord's six-lighted Aureole candleholder (£14.95), or for a touch of colour, GTC's circular metal six-light holder (£12) with red, green or clear glass candleholders (£4.50 each). On either side of the centre, put a pair of the GTC's tall, plain glass candlesticks (£43). Complete the look with Angelic's wrought iron

hurricane wall sconces — a snip at £7.95.

Add brightness to a rustic garden with Angelic's roughly painted flowerpot candles in vivid green, blue, yellow, red or orange (from £4.95), and add to the nostalgic look by filling a GTC five-candle basket (£20) with flowers, decorating the candles with apple candle rings (£3.50) and using it as your centrepiece with plain glass hurricane lamps as additional lighting.

Have fun with some brashly bright lights. Brats have an almost-entire range of vegetable flares (£8.95) — sweetcorn and carrot are

best. Dangle ribbed-glass lanterns (Angelic, £7.95) in turquoise, green, yellow and iridescent orange from your greenery, put Carpenter's big strawberry candles (£9.95) and scarlet glass night-light holders (Angelic £7.95) on the table and you're all set for a Margarita-soaked Tex-Mex cantina buffet.

For seriously smart garden lights, though, call at John Cullen Lighting. Mains voltage fittings tend to be more elegant than subtle accent spot, but now you can use unobtrusive low-voltage fittings to transform a town terrace into an elegant extension of your

living space or to highlight foliage and statuary in a country garden. If possible, consult a lighting designer at the planning stage of your garden, so power supplies can be trenching in advance, but as long as you have an external electricity supply, you can simply use spiked low-voltage spotlights, which can easily be moved and tilted (£62.63). John Cullen's range also includes buried spotlights (£159.64), directional floodlights (from £128.57) for paths and walls, and low-voltage wall fittings (£158.88).

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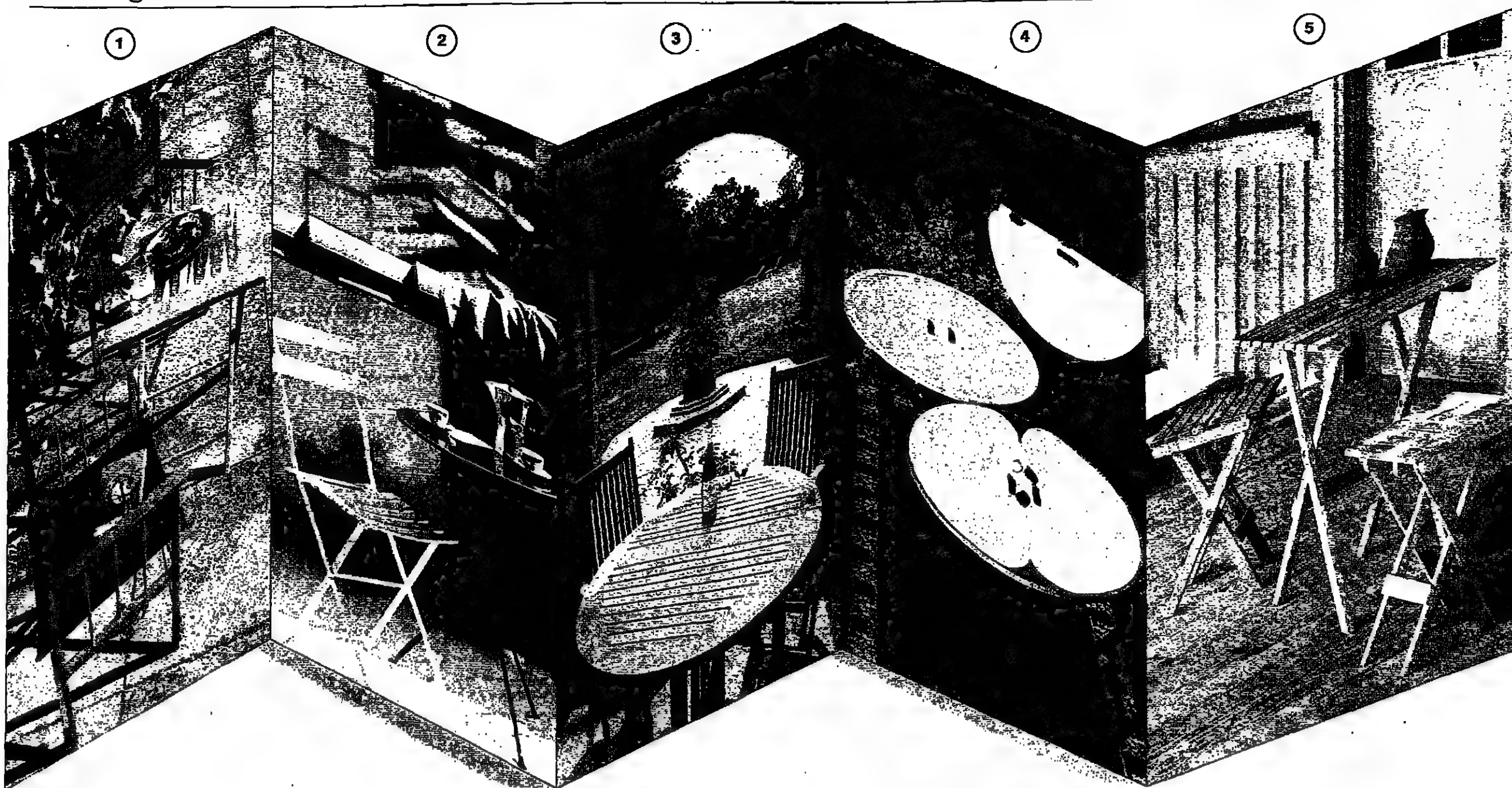
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Plastic garden furniture may be cheap, but long-lasting foldaway wooden chairs and tables are better value



1 A Beechwood backgammon table (£175) and folding chairs (£195). From Bagendon

2 Rosso metal table (£20) and Park folding chair with metal slats (£22). From Habitat

3 Teak Simpson table (£399) with matching teak Paxton chairs (£225). From Heals

4 Range of hand-painted fruit and vegetable tables (£99). From Bagendon

5 Teak Scout table (£29) with matching teak stools (£15 each). From Habitat

Into the woods for summer

As the lazy month of August approaches, it is time to make the most of the British summertime. As Jane Austen said: "To sit in the shade on a fine day and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment." And she would no doubt have been sitting on an oak bench, amid rolling acres in Hampshire. For those of us who have to manage with small gardens and smaller budgets, foldaway garden furniture is a good bet.

Don't be duped into buying plastic, however tempting the chairs and tables look on the forecourt of your local garage: you can get decent wooden furniture for a reasonable price. Even if it can't be left outside all year, what we've chosen here can be stowed away easily... although some of it is attractive enough to be

used indoors and out. And the foldaways are handy for big lunches or dinners where your regular dining furniture won't seat the numbers.

When buying wooden garden furniture it is important to know where the wood has come from. All of the teak included here is from sustainable forests. From an ethical viewpoint, as Rupert Oliver from Forests Forever, part of the Timber Trade Federation, says: "Most teak comes from well-managed forests in Indonesia and Burma. In fact, there is no problem with supply because it is a species that can be grown easily."

The beauty of teak from a customer's point of view is that it can be left outside throughout the year, and if polished with teak oil it will stay golden brown. Spoils Kitchen Reject shops stock four garden chairs

that fold away. You can rest easy and soak up the sun in its canvas deck chair (£19.99) or tennis chair (£18.99) with an adjustable back. It also stocks a director's chair (£12.99) and a pine foldaway chair in olive green or natural (£7.99).

The Bagendon Furniture Company has a wide range of made-to-order folding tables. It specialises in beechwood table tops which double up as games tables, including backgammon £175, snakes and ladders £235, and chess boards £125. They also have a large range of fruit designs on 60cm wide round tables. You can order hand-painted tables of any fruit or vegetable for £99.

Habitat's range of foldaway furniture is more traditional. Throughout the year it sells a round teak folding table (£199), a metre wide, which

can double up as part of your household furniture with matching folding chairs (£89). If you are looking for something less expensive, Habitat's 46 x 50cm Scout table (£29) and folding stools (£15) are great value. It also stocks a children's chair with matching table, both £19.

If your patio might better be described as a window box, go for the small Ponn folding metal and wood console 42 x 100cm (£79). According to Angela Gordon, who is in charge of furniture merchandise at Habitat, the best type of outdoor foldaways "are the ones you can leave outside all year round". There is a rosso, 55cm diameter round metal table in white, blue or silver at £29, with matching chairs at £22. If you need something bigger, go for

the parc, a green round metal table 130cm wide (£85) with matching chairs for £22.

Harrods also offers a range of foldaways which will be in stock at sale prices until August 10. It stocks chico chairs in teak which are strong and simple and designed by Sante Martinuzzi (£179). It suggests the chairs should be twinned with the Café Royal table designed by Aren Vodder (£479), which seats four people. Harrods also stocks a green and white canvas and metal-framed King Eastern stool, which at £18.71 is perfect for any picnic.

Heals stocks a range of foldaway garden furniture, which includes the Simpson table (£399) and the Paxton chair (£225), both of which are teak. These are expensive but, says Jane Taylor, publicity manager of Heals: "They are

all grade one teak, which means they should last for more than 70 years."

Heals also has the false armchair, with an aluminium-coloured frame and beechwood slats (£52) and a matching 60cm bistro-type round table (£65).

If you are still tempted by plastic, bear in mind the words of Alan Sadler from the Leisure and Outdoor Furniture Association: "Foldaway wooden furniture has become popular because it lasts longer than plastic and gets better as it weathers."

CAROLINE GRIFFITHS

● Spoils, for nearest store, 0171-837 7492; Bagendon, mail order 01285 831417; Habitat, for nearest store, 06-45 334433; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1, 0171-730 1234; Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1, 0171-636 1666.

POLISHED MANNERS

FURNITURE made by Bagendon has been finished with Sadolin, a Swedish exterior timber preservative. The level of protection depends on the shade of the polish: if it is dark, it offers the best protection. If you use medium colour, the wood will need treating once a year. The Bagendon games tables have been finished with Ronseal Cork and Floor varnish, which doesn't chip; however, you may want to apply another coat at the end of the summer.

Before polishing any wood make sure you clean it thoroughly, washing it with a soap solution and scrubbing with a firm brush. If using teak oil, go for a good brand such as Rustin's (250ml, £1.90) or Liberon (250ml, £3.10). Apply three or four coats sparingly with a dry cloth, leaving three to four hours between coats. For beechwood or pine use Liberon finishing oil (250ml, £3.03); apply in the same way as the teak oil. Alternatively, use Rustin's Danish oil (250ml, £2.30); it dries in four to six hours, and does not pick up dust and dirt as other oils may.

For many people, however, the easiest thing to do is nothing. The teak will turn a gentle silver-grey colour, and will last just as long as its polished cousins.

● Rustin's, for nearest stockist 0181-450 4666; Liberon, for nearest stockist 01797 367555; Ronseal, available at all good DIY stores.

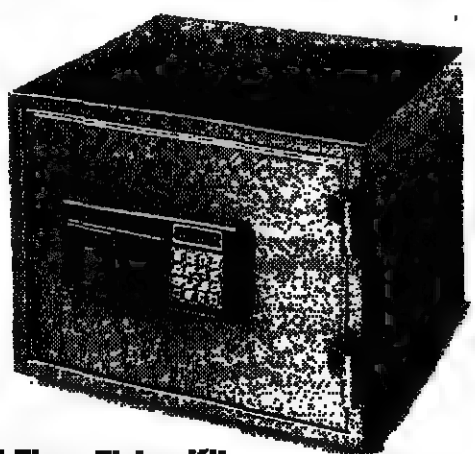


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FOR MANY years, women have favoured the idea of a fine line drawn along the rim of their eyes to highlight their shape and expression. Kohl was first used by the Egyptians to give an exotic cat's-eye look, but it has been toned down to give a more subtle line.

Modern technology means softer formulas that draw a line along the base of the lower lashes without dragging the delicate skin around the eye. I tested a range of pencils on the market, ranging in price from 48p to an unbelievable £67.50 per gram.

■ Marks & Spencer Classics Soft Powder Eyeliner 4g/£4 (price per g: £1) From branches of Marks & Spencer nationwide. Colours: plum, cocoa, ink, grey.

Price includes pencil sharpener and sponge smudger. The new powder-formula pencil was very soft on the skin around my eye and drew a smooth line without dragging the skin at all. The line had a soft edge which was more subtle than traditional pencils and the smudger enabled me to create a well-blended "end" to the line. I wouldn't recommend that this be used on the inner rim of the eye because of the powdery formula. The make-up looked fresh all day. Excellent product at a very good price. Score: 10/10.

■ Clinique Eye Shading Pencil 1.9g/£7.50 (price per g: £3.95) Available from leading department stores nationwide. Colours: almost black, charcoal brown, charcoal blue, pewter, sapphire light and sea light (aqua green).

Very soft kohl that can be used on the base of the lashes or on the inner rim of the eyes with ease and precision. No colour "bleeding" throughout the



The eyes have it: Elizabeth Taylor's optical illusion in Cleopatra

day. Easy to use and excellent value. Score: 10/10.

■ Bobbi Brown Essentials Eye Pencil 0.15g/£9.50 (price per g: £63.33) Available from Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, W1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW3, or by mail order (0171-730 1234 ext 2777). Colours: taupe (grey-brown), black, brown, navy, moss (green), heather, charcoal.

A very soft traditional kohl pencil that gives a smooth, even line without dragging the skin. Once applied, the kohl can be softened slightly with a cotton bud to give a more subtle finish. Lasted well throughout the day. Can be used easily on the inner rim of the eye. Far too expensive, but an impressive performance. Score: 9/10.

■ Origins Kohl Mine 1g/£5.50 (price per g: £5.50) Available from Harrods.

Knightsbridge, SW3. Colours: Terrakohl, Plumkohl, Brownkohl, Olivekohl, Charkohl and Blackkohl.

A lipstick-style push-up, with a solid stick of kohl that can be applied with precision. Lasted well all day. Score: 9/10.

■ Clarins Eyeliner Pencil 1.4g/£9.50 (price per g: £6.79) From good department stores, independent pharmacies. Colours: black, grey, brown, green or indigo.

A very soft kohl that draws a smooth line along the base of the lashes and can also be used comfortably on the inner rim of the eyes. Score: 8/10.

■ Prescriptives Eyecolouring Pencil 1.3g/£9 (price per g: £6.92) Available from 30 stockists nationwide, including Selfridges.

Oxford Street, W1 and other leading department stores. Colours: bronze, charcoal, dove, graphite, sage, ebony, sable, black-brown.

Slightly scratchy on the skin, dragging it when applied at the base of the lower lashes, causing my eyes to smart a little when used on the inner rim, and the colour "bled" towards the end of the day. Score: 5/10.

■ MAC (Make Up Art Cosmetics) by Frank Toscan Eye Pencil (Kohl) 1.45g/£7.50 (price per g: £5.17) Available from MAC, 109 Kings Road, London SW3 4PA; MAC, 28 Fouberts Place, W1V 1HG; MAC at Harvey Nichols, 67 Brompton Road, SW3 1EF. Mail order: 0171-349 0601. Colours: taupe, ebony (black), slate (grey), coffee (dark brown), indigo (dark blue), teal (light aqua blue), forest green.

Medium-soft pencil that scratched a little on first application, although it seemed to soften after a couple of uses. Used both at base of lashes and on inner rim, although it was a bit hard on the latter. Lasted well but a little overpriced for the performance. Score: 5/10.

■ Le Teint Ricci by Nina Ricci Eyeliner Pencil with Refill 2 x 0.15g/£30.25 (price per g: £67.50) From leading department stores nationwide. For your nearest stockist, ring 0171-493 6232. Colours: black, brown or blue.

This attractive-looking pencil is gold and coral with a lid at one end that covers a sponge smudger. It's an automatic pencil with a twist-up mechanism to save using a sharpener. However, I think this adds unnecessary expense. The pencil was scratchy, so was not suitable for use on the inner rim of the eye and it dragged my skin. The resulting fine line was neat and had an even colour but I wouldn't recommend it — even at a lower price. Score: 3/10.

KAREN KAY

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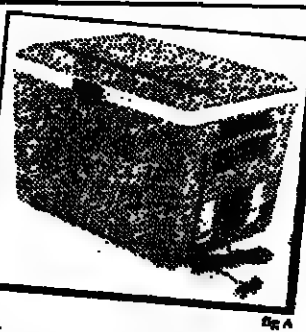
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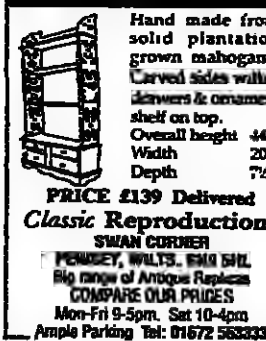
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Through a welter of laughter and tears, Mary Loudon believes that, with Cheevey, screenwriter Gerald DiPego has produced an almost perfect novel



DiPego: writing as clear as a bell

CLAUDE CHEEVEY, Californian through and through, is so named because his mother has a thing about France. She has given all her children French names: Claude, Mari and Philippe. Claude, however, is known as Cheevey, the one family member to take its surname and make it his own, and this is no coincidence, for it is Cheevey who is the bedrock of the family.

It is Cheevey to whom they all turn for support: it is Cheevey through whom they communicate with one another. Cheevey copes — just — until he finds himself the bearer of bad tidings between

family members, caught in a whirlpool of events beyond his control, a survivor among the drowning, but thrashing around nevertheless.

Gerald DiPego's *Cheevey* is the story of a dysfunctional family and 20-year-old boy's attempts to stop the rot before it destroys them all. Cheevey's father runs a television store; his mother lies in the dark during the day, complaining of

■ **CHEEVEY**
By Gerald DiPego
Sceptre, £5.99
ISBN 0 340 666 32 3

illness and longing for France; his brother, Phil, drinks and is violent; and his sister, Mari, is a depressive. Cheevey dotes on Mari's son; he is nice to his parents; he supports the alcoholic Phil while falling in love with Phil's former

girlfriend, trying to precipitate what he has longed for all his life — a reaction, of almost any kind. His attempts are comic, moving, impulsive, endearing, sweetly pathetic, but ultimately in vain.

This novel is so good it is almost perfect. The writing has all the innocence, the fresh-puppy dog straightforwardness of a good man on the threshold of adult life, longing to embrace it wholeheart-

edly, but learning, in the most painful ways possible, that other people may prevent you from doing so. DiPego's writing is as clear as a bell and its themes ring true across the text, embodied by plausible characters and a sound plot. DiPego is an accomplished screenwriter, so it is no accident that his ear for dialogue is so good. Yet his ability to do much more, most of all to convey not love which is missing

but love which cannot be identified, is flawless. I was moved to tears and laughter, over and over again. I have read some cracking novels this year but the three best (this one, *Audrey Hepburn's Neck* and *The Wrecked, Blessed Body Of Shelton LaFleur*) are all published by Sceptre. Good for Sceptre. There are 36,573 titles published every year in Britain (a figure topped only by China and nearly twice that of America), and scores of them are complete drivel. Yet if most new novels published were even half as good as any of the above, we would all be the richer for it.

Innocence and experience

The evil that men do

Helen Stevenson is transported to Mississippi in the 1920s, a world of superstition and oppression

THE place is Mississippi, in 1926. Mattie, a 16-year-old girl from a large family in which the men are men and the unmarried daughters are frightened, has been sold into marriage with Eliah, a barber in a town she has never visited. Though Eliah beats, torments and exploits his wife, Carolyn Haines allows him some depth of character, which explains why, despite her hatred of him, Mattie continues for a long time to collude in her enslavement.

■ **TOUCHED**
By Carolyn Haines
Headline Review, £6.99
ISBN 0 7472 1391 7

which can destroy lives with the savage nonchalance of a drunkard in a rage. The morning after, a man will ask for his eggs with the yolk runny and the white set. In the same way, the river will subside and even help to wash up the bodies that it has claimed.

The second force for change is a woman, Joanna McVay. Joanna has intelligence, lovers and, scandalously at 48, a nine-year-old child, Duncan, who dances at other children's parties, despite the general belief that music and dancing are sinful. When Duncan is struck down by lightning, he recovers but displays an ability to prophesy calamitous events in other people's lives. The townsfolk turn him into an object of hysterical superstition. Mattie, drawn by Joanna's love of life and ability to assert her own path, becomes involved in a struggle to protect Duncan from hurricane, floods and the fear of the community.

Touched is an exciting, moving story, with powerful characters who serve a purpose and leave a mark. A drunken husband half-shuffling, half-stumbling to bed sounds "as if he were being blown into the room". In such moments Haines's use of language is both perfectly apt and strikingly original. It is a difficult balance to achieve and the sign of an excellent writer.



Haines: difficult balance

There is something of the psychological structure and tension of *Jamaica Inn* to *Touched* as well as a similar sense of place, a quality which, almost more than any other, brings magic to a novel.

Two elements for change animate this fated, gossip-ridden, superstitious community and create a drama which will eventually liberate Mattie, at least mentally, from her torpor of submission. The first is the Pascagoula river,

Edward Marriott on two travel accounts that pay homage to Andalusia



Cultural cradle: an Andalusian mountain village — but you will not find Hugh Seymour-Davies's Dalmacija on any map

Spain - the Moor, the Maria

AL-ANDALUS was the name given by the Moor invaders to the whole of Spain. Today Andalusia is only its southernmost province, where the north African influence is still felt most strongly. Yet, perhaps the designation should have remained: for most of Spain's history, the Moors have been the only enemy.

Now, with Moroccan immigration continuing where their warrior ancestors left off, their influence — in food, architecture, the proud, dark features of its people — still pervades southern Spain: Andalusia remains a heady mix of Europe and Africa. It is these contradictions that have attracted English writers throughout the century — from Gerald Brennan and Rose Macaulay to, more recently, Simon Courtland and Hugh Seymour-Davies.

Courtland, an experienced journalist, begins his journey in the south but broadens it to encompass the whole of the country. *Spanish Hours* is the best mix: a combination of history and memoir that reads as if it has been composed from years of travelling and as many notebooks. It is rich in anecdote and, more impressive still, clear-eyed, free from the warp of nostalgia. With deft

■ **SPANISH HOURS**
By Simon Courtland
Libra Mundi, £16.95
ISBN 1 872037 03 8

■ **THE BOTTLEBRUSH TREE**
By Hugh Seymour-Davies
Black Swan, £6.99
ISBN 0 552 99658 0

concision, he sweeps from the Civil War, through sexual politics, to bullfighting and the struggle of the modern woman for her independence.

While his thorough journalistic approach often hampers a more free-flowing, descriptive style, it also means that *Spanish Hours* will stand as a valuable companion, a balanced introduction to a complex, highly romantic culture, where matadors are bigger stars than rock musicians and much of the village work is still done by mules.

Which is what attracted Seymour-Davies and his wife Georgina, anxious to make a home in the unspoiled Andalusian wilderness. The Victorian traveller Charles Doughty's "glorious province of Islam". *The Bottlebrush Tree*, although only just published in paperback, had its first hardback run in 1988, a year earlier

than *A Year in Provence*. Why the latter succeeded so remarkably, and Seymour-Davies's book should have had to languish so long before its paperback appearance, is baffling.

The two books have much in common: Englishman realises fantasy of buying house in rural idyll; struggles with recalcitrant builders; comes in the end to love the community in which he has made his home. But *The Bottlebrush Tree* is by far the better book.

It is, in essence, a domestic tale, but Seymour-Davies possesses a depth of understanding about his surroundings and neighbours wholly absent in Peter Mayle. When he describes the festivals of the year — Easter, San Antonio, Candelaria — he does so not only with affection, but also with an educated, historically aware, eye. Better still — and this shows a respect for his new friends — he has disguised the village, its "predominant colours" may be "black for the women, white for the walls and scarlet for the geraniums", but the reader, he writes, "will not find the name Dalmacija on any map of Andalusia". There is no risk of a tourist invasion: each reader will have to make his or her own journey.

Camping out in Manhattan

■ **RESIDENT ALIEN**
Written and read by Quentin Crisp
Penguin, £8.99
(2 cassettes, 3 hours)
ISBN 0 14 086188 2

THE New York diaries are a joy to the ear. Crisp's voice has the lived-in sound of an old corduroy sofa. Unshockable by anyone or anything after years of outrageous camp, celebrated in *The Naked Civil Servant*, Crisp remains constantly curious about people's reactions to him. He is pleasantly surprised how nice life is in Manhattan now that he is famous. "My life has been one long holiday," he sighs winningly. Alternatively sharp and poignant, he turns out to be a rather reactionary old queen.

■ **THE RAILWAY MAN**
By Eric Lomax read by John McCarthy
Random House, £7.65
(2 cassettes, 3 hours)
ISBN 1 85686 619 X

ERIC LOMAX's gruelling account of wartime torture by the Japanese on the Burma-Siam Railway is almost too painful to listen to. Fifty years ago an extra cruel twist was how those who suffered were forgotten back home. Lomax carried the scars, hidden deep within, for half a century, wrecking a marriage, blighting his life. Then he decided to meet one of his tormentors in a moving act of reconciliation. The choice of former hostage John McCarthy to read this book was inspired. His sensitive reading brings understanding to this extraordinary act of forgiveness.

■ **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**
By Victor Hugo read by Nigel Davenport
Penguin, £6.99
(2 cassettes, 3 hours)
ISBN 0 14 086429 6

DIFFICULT to understand why this dark, erotic tale should be singled out as a children's story — but this year we have the sanitised Disney cartoon version and an audio book in Penguin's Children's Classics series billed as "Hugo's adventure of the trag-

AUDIO BOOKS

ic Quasimodo and his devotion to La Esmeralda, the flamboyant gypsy dancer. Nigel Davenport reads with suitable gravitas. Adults can only wonder why it is not for them...

■ **THE ACID HOUSE**
Written and read by Irvine Welsh
Random House, £7.65
(2 cassettes, 3 hours)
ISBN 1 85686 369 7

TRAINSPOTTING did the double of being a cult novel and film. This tape carries its own warning, with a blue-green cover and an unintelligible opening conversation between the author and Iggy Pop, and the short stories often



Welsh: rich, original voice

contain wall-to-wall expletives. However, the listener who survives these obstacles will find a rich, original voice, which reminds me of *Last Exit to Brooklyn* but with much more humour. A layabout, recently fired, meets John in a café and upsides him. He is promptly turned into a blue-bottle and witnesses his girlfriend being unfaithful, puts rat poison on his former boss's sandwiches before being swatted by his mother when she breaks off from an unnatural sexual practice with his father. Other stories are equally bizarre. Best listened to alone on a long journey as an antidote to road rage.

RUSSELL TWISK

Bad ol' boys take a bloodbath

THE classic thriller has a set series of ingredients: a multilayered plot, depth of character, pace and a veneer of technology. Stephen Hunter's latest book has all of them. Only steamy sex is missing. That said, a sex crime — the rape and murder of a 15-year-old black schoolgirl — is the worm at the heart of the generation-spanning intrigue that holds *Black Light* together.

Bob Lee Swagger, sniper and recluse once accused of murder, is a flawed hero from the Vietnam war, trying to patch together a new life in Arizona. That is until he is sought out

by a would-be bestseller-writer, who, for once, is not in search of Swagger's own story but that of his father.

For part of his tragedy is that his father too was an all-American war hero — of the 1941-45 Pacific campaign — who became a hick-town lawman gunned down by an orphaned boy he had sworn to look after. Swagger Jr reluctantly sets out with the naive aspiring writer on an obsessive investigation into events

■ **BLACK LIGHT**
By Stephen Hunter
Century, £15.99
ISBN 0 7126 7581 7

40 years earlier, only to find that people today still care enough to try to kill him. In well-established Hunter style, we are soon in the thick of furious firefights in which Swagger picks off the opposition like so many gun-toting fairground ducks.

The plot fairly hurtles along to a set piece of hunter versus hunter in dark woods at night, with the infrared technology of the sniper's rifle as the "black light" of the title. But it is the post-climactic denouement, in which all the ends are satisfactorily tied together, that works best.

If there is a flaw in this book, it is Swagger's near-invincibility. You feel he could catch bullets in his teeth. But even that does not prevent him

from being as credible in his own way as the rest of Hunter's cast of finely drawn villains and eccentrics. The feel for place and period — the racially prejudiced backwoods of 1950s Arkansas — are exquisite, even down to the grammatically-challenged local dialect.

This book effectively forms the concluding part of a trilogy, with Hunter's previous novels *Point of Impact* and *Dirty White Boys*, but that is only a point of context. A great mix, stirring put together.

PETER MILLAR

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

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		Week	
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4	EXCESSION Iain M. Banks (Orbit)	£15.99	4 5
5	CREDO Melvyn Bragg (Sceptre)	£16.99	0 5
6	SOLITAIRE MYSTERY Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£16.99	0 5
7	KEEPER OF GENESIS Robert Bauland & Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	0 5
8	TENTH INSIGHT James Redfield (Bantam)	£14.99	0 5
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The young are capable of exemplary courage in a crisis

Brave little soldiers

CHILDREN

A RECENT episode of *The Famous Five* warned television viewers not to imitate the Five by shutting themselves in car boots. Fortunately most children are more sensible than Enid Blyton's dim-witted child heroes, as Karen Robinson's *Rescue True Live Survival Stories* (Collins £2.99, ISBN 0 00 675226 8) reveals. These are seven true-life tales of children and teenagers who have shown bravery and presence of mind in scary situations.

Whether saving children on a sinking cruise ship or a man whose clothes are on fire, these youthful heroes are more of a surprise than the "official" version of life, "which I have to hand in at school", blue paper for a fantasy story he is writing and red paper for "the real truth" in letters to an imaginary pen friend. Gawnay's search for the truth about his father, lost in the Falklands War, is not concluded — but he learns

important things about himself and his own relationships. *Red, White and Blue* ends with Gawnay discovering his father's collection of classic adventure novels — books most modern children find daunting. Viking's new *Whole Story* series, for ages nine and over, presents light classics in a child-friendly format, unabridged, but intelligently annotated: Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (£9.99, ISBN 0 670 86793 0), Kipling's *The Jungle Book* (£8.99, ISBN 0 670 86797 7), Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days* (£9.99, ISBN 0 670 86793 4) and Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* (£7.99, ISBN 0 670 86796 9), comprise the list so far.

Each title is gorgeously illustrated with new artwork plus photos, maps and contemporary illustrations whose captions help young readers understand the context.

SARAH JOHNSON

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Man of many metaphors: Michael Ignatieff on the collected stories of Vladimir Nabokov, John Grigg on *Blitzkrieg British society in the Era of the Great War*, plus the letters of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya

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Your guide
to those
P-reg
deals on
wheels

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A feast
from the
Rolls-Royce
of picnic
hampers

Page 3

SATURDAY JULY 27 1996



Michael Schumacher has ordered his own £145,000 Maranello. Well, he can afford it

New Ferrari: with added F1 drivers

Somehow I expected more. Michael Schumacher is small. Not small in the Ronnie Corbett sense of a squirt, just not what you would expect of a world champion sportsman. Where Linford Christie is all bulging biceps, Formula One drivers come jockey-sized, slim as pencils but surrounded by that same aura of glowing good health that marked out the super-fit Schumacher from the bleary-eyed couch-potato journalists who jostled to get near him, presumably hoping some of the brilliance might rub off.

In his flame-red Ferrari overalls and luminous Dekra baseball cap, you felt you could almost warm your hands on the world champion. Yet somehow the proportions were wrong. As he opened the door and climbed into the car, he looked more like a fourth-former who was wriggling into his dad's favourite armchair; everything around him looked too big.

But then it was big: Ferrari's new car is for grown-ups. The 550 Maranello destroys all the Ferrari conventions that seemed once to determine that familiar image of a droop-snout nose and high, sharp rear. Ferraris are supposed to be low, small and fast, the Nike-shod Linfords of motoring that tear up the track with a scream; instead, the 550 is cultured: more a favourite uncle in Hush Puppies.

That does not mean that the 550 is not fast because it is, seriously so — 0 to 60mph in 4.3 seconds and 199mph flat out. It was Schumacher's job to prove the point at Germany's Nurburgring track. Ferrari lined up a team of Formula One drivers — including Minardi's racer Giancarlo Fisichella and ex-world champion Nicky Lauda — to scorch around the circuit, taking the car to limits it could never reach on the road.

Eddie Irvine, Schumacher's F1 team-mate, was supposed

It's far bigger,
more powerful,
and so much
faster, reports
Kevin Eason
at the race track

to be there, but the Irishman showed as much success in getting to his destination off the track as he has on it recently. His plane was delayed and he failed to show up. Lauda came clad in jeans, tweed jacket and the customary baseball cap which helps hide the appalling burns he suffered 20 years ago in a crash that prompted the closure of the legendary old 14-mile Nurburgring circuit.

The tight, new circuit is a cakewalk for a man of his experience and, if Schumacher was on duty in full Ferrari uniform, Lauda was relaxed, laid-back even. The ex-champ is Ferrari's F1 guru and has been there and done that, so the 550 is very much his kind of car: smooth, well-mannered, fast but controlled. Lauda played a big part in developing the new car, which probably explains the character of the 550. It seems all adult, a sensible supercar for the caring, sharing Nineties — precisely what Luca di Montezomolo, the young Ferrari boss, wanted.

"We have asked customers what they want to drive in the next century," he says. So they get a car which, outside, is pretty hefty — only about eight inches shorter than a Jaguar XJS but seven inches wider — and more Euro-styled than Ferraris before, the deep gash of the air intake in the bonnet and the hot-air vents slanted into the flanks the most distinctive features. Inside, traditionally cramped Ferrari

cabins have given way to comfort — lots of room, leather everywhere and air-conditioning — the one Ferrari signature — that customary metal-gated gearbox, this time for a six-speed transmission.

The 550 Maranello — the number from its 5.5-litre V12, the name badge from Ferrari's famous factory — replaces the 512, a car so hairy that Montezomolo was moved to describe it as "the last of the Mohicans". Refinement is the game now, even though the 550 is significantly quicker than the 512, 3.2 seconds faster around Ferrari's Fiorano test track, in fact.

Montezomolo adds: "Customers want performance but they want to use their cars much more than in the past. They want a chic, powerful car, a 12-cylinder car that they can enjoy driving, that is not too difficult to use, that they could drive every day to the office or with their wife or child next to them."

There were no children available at the Nurburgring to test the boss's vision, but I was the next nearest object, and was offered a first spin on the circuit. It was like being in the enclosure at Ascot, me standing ready to make my choice, the runners lined up in the pit lane before the jockeys arrived.

I climbed in beside Fisichella, one of the young faces to watch in Formula One. It was like being taken out by my son; he was so fresh-faced and tiny, I wanted to plump up his cushion so he could reach the pedals.

He grinned because he knew what was to come over the next 2.3 miles of the circuit: he knew that the traction control system designed to keep the car straight and sure was very definitely switched off... so Fisichella was ready to have fun. The throttle went to the floor, shifting the 550's huge bulk at alarming speed almost instantly.

Continued on page 3



The new car is a change from the company's traditional approach. It's a much larger, more grown-up machine, but with a top speed of 199mph

"In his flame-red
Ferrari overalls
you could warm
your hands on the
world champion"



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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

London
A302 Westminster Bridge closed from 9pm Friday to 5am Monday for reconstruction work, use Lambeth as an alternative.
A100 City: Byward Street down to a single lane east-bound for reconstruction work at the Great Tower Street junction. Expect long delays.
A30 Asford: improvement work on London Road at the junction with Stanwell Road and Town Lane with off-peak lane closures.
A202 Camberwell New Road has one lane closed north-bound between Flossden Road and Lottian Road.
A408 Shepherds Bush: roadworks on Askew Road with temporary lights.
South East
B3022 Winkfield: roadworks heading towards Bracknell, past the A330 junction at Maidenhead.
M4 junctions 12-14: overnight lane closures from 10pm until 5am.
A404 Amersham: resurfacing from Bell Lane to Cokes Lane during the day.
A417 Roushock: lane closures with temporary lights.
M20 junction 8: roadworks on A20 roundabout above the motorway, with one lane closed.
A258 Folkestone: width restrictions on Canterbury Road.
M25 junctions 6-10: major widening work between the Godstone and Reigate junctions, with various restrictions along the 19-mile stretch.
South West
M5 junctions 17-20: lane restrictions both ways between Bristol West and Clevedon, especially over the Avonmouth Bridge, with a 50mph speed limit.
A37 south of Yeovil: temporary lights at major works, with a 20mph speed restriction.
A38 Gloucester: major roadworks at Cole Avenue roundabout. Long delays.
A3027 Taunton: temporary lights on North Street. Major delays in town centre.
A3102 Swindon: major roadworks at the Mannington roundabout with traffic down to a single lane. Long delays.
Midlands and East Anglia
M11 junctions 12-14: resurfacing with a contraflow in operation. Northbound entry slip from the A603 at junction 12 closed. Major congestion.
A632 Near Chesterfield: roadworks on Langth Road at Bolsover Lane with diversions.
A442 Hampton Lovett: temporary lights with a 10mph speed limit.
A6 Lockington: contraflow with a single lane in both directions.
M180 junctions 5-4: contraflow with two lanes eastbound and one westbound.

A500 Stoke on Trent: roadworks on The Queensway with one lane open in both directions.
A4123 Dudley: northbound carriageway reduced to a single lane. Expect delays.

North
A167M Newcastle: Central motorway down to a single lane in both directions.
M6 junctions 20-21A: work between the Lymm and Croft junctions with three narrow lanes in both directions.
M6 junctions 30-32: lane closures in both directions (Monday-Friday) between Blacow and Broughton.
M1 junction 47: major roadworks with lane closures and 30mph speed limit.
M62 junction 28: lane restrictions and 30mph speed limit at the roundabout junction of the A650 and A653.
M18 junctions 1-M1: contraflow between Rotherham and Thurncroft. Long peak-time delays.

Wales
A470 Llyswent: temporary lights at Llangoed Hall.
A547 Llandudno: temporary lights.
A4042 Between Pontepool and Little Mill: lane closures and contraflows. Delays at peak periods.
A48 and A4067 Morriston: major work at the Wychtree roundabout. Delays at peak periods.
M4 junctions 34-35: major roadworks with contraflow and 50mph speed limit. Expect delays at peak periods.
A482 Aberaeron Upper Bridge closed with diversion via the A487. Lengthy delays.

Scotland
M8 junction 15, Glasgow: westbound traffic restricted to three narrow lanes at the Townhead junction. Stirling Road westbound on-ramp is closed, along with the Castle Street eastbound off-ramp.
A1 Between Bankton and Macmerry: restrictions with lane closures at Heddington junction, the B8471 and Abbotsview.
A90 Longtong: lane closures in both directions for roadworks with speed restrictions.
A725 East Kilbride Expressway: westbound off-ramp to Main Street, Blantyre is closed, with diversion via slip-road to Hamilton.
A872 Stirling: temporary lights controlling traffic on Glasgow Road for sewer repairs.

Northern Ireland
A2 Portadown: restrictions on the Newway at Mill Avenue junction.
A21 Comber: restrictions on Hillborough Road.
A5 Milltown: lane closures on Strabane Road with temporary lights between Stion Mills and Newton Stewart.

Why should tractor-driving agriculturalists get blamed for blocking our roads? They run the country after all

Mad tow disease hits farmer Giles

I have a problem when anything to do with farmers comes into the news. On the one hand, attacking farmers in print is a surefire hit because readers easily identify with images of vast subsidies and mad cows. On the other hand, I do not especially want my house attacked by a muck-spreader.

The lanes around my home are heavily populated at this time of the year with tractors, combine harvesters and other agricultural behemoths. According to a new report, the drivers of these vehicles are uncaring louts who delay traffic and cause accidents.

Devon and Cornwall Police have warned tractor drivers that, following a rise in complaints, they will be prosecuted if they ignore three consecutive opportunities to pull over and let traffic pass.

So you see my problem: popularity versus the muck-spreader. Although I admit that the prospect of painting my house for the second time in a year is not attractive, I can honestly say that attacking farmers for taking over the roads is a load of manure. It

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

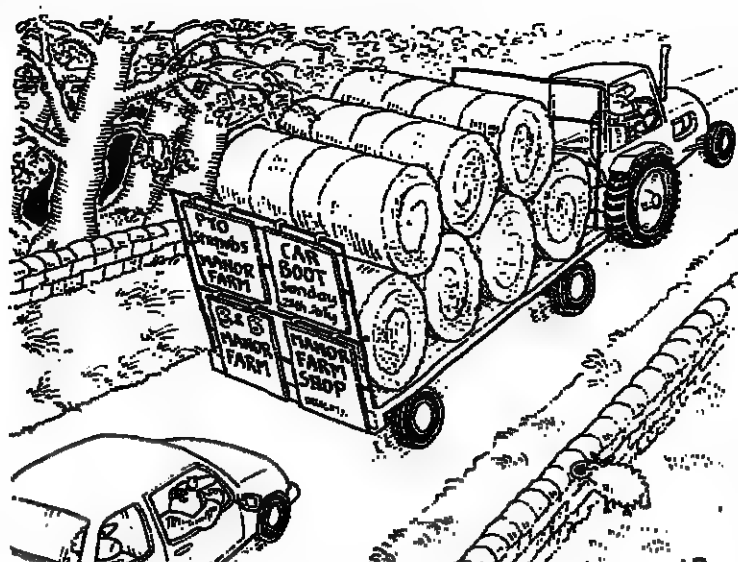


Peter Barnard

represents a classically urban view of what the countryside is all about.

Contrary to this romantic view, the rural landscape was not created for birdwatchers, hikers, mountain bikers and caravanners. Fields of wheat swaying in the evening sunshine may be photogenic, but they are not actually planted in order to service competitions in Amateur Photography.

Lambs are gambolling a few fields from where I sit, but they were not



actually put there to entertain bored children in the backs of cars. The brutal truth is that a lamb is not actually a lamb. It is a collection of chops temporarily housed on four legs. The collective noun for these animals ought to be rack, not flock: "Oh look, children, a rack of lamb."

The countryside is as much a part of our industrial landscape as any factory. Few people complain about giant transporters holding them up on the roads near Rover Cars, yet for

some reason as tractor towing a ton of hay is seen as an intrusion.

According to the aforementioned report, farmers ought to be more considerate of other traffic. As soon as a queue of cars builds up behind them, they must pull over and let it pass. Some farmers do that, some of the time, but why on earth should we expect all of them to do it all of the time?

For one thing, a tractor driver pulling a mountain of manure on a

trailer is quite oblivious to what is going on behind him. Farmers are only aware of engine noise, which is sufficient to drown out a sonic boom. Hooting at them is futile.

As to vision: what vision? A rear-view mirror on a tractor is about as useful as a chocolate kettle. And given the volume of traffic on our roads, farmers towing wheat would be stopping so much there would be a bread shortage by the time they got the harvest home.

Devon and Cornwall Police are quite entitled to point out their powers under existing law. And they are right to say that frustrated drivers tend to make dangerous overtaking moves, thus leading to accidents. Nor am I immune to fuming at tractor drivers.

But I am also prone to fuming at little old ladies mooching along at 27 mph on a main road. Cyclists, with their infuriating habit of riding two abreast, have been known to render me incandescent. And as for people towing caravans... please, don't get me going on that again.

Little old ladies, cyclists and caravanners are of course immune from attack. They break no law. I am no great fan of farming as an industry, given its lethal dependence on chemicals, but to put the onus for bad overtaking on the farmers who are being overtaken offers a get-out for motorists which we do not deserve.



Excuse me, can you tell me the way to Skegness? Oh for the days of cobbled roads and personal service? A Belgian "AA man" helps out a 1960s motorist who has lost his way

Summer jam ahead

This year looks set to be the worst holiday driving season for traffic congestion yet, says Kevin Eason

I started with a 20-mile tailback... and will end with dozens of miserable motorists whose holidays have ended in disaster and even death.

Britain is now officially on holiday and millions are taking to the roads to get to beaches in this country and abroad ready to endure the most stressful hours of their motoring lives in cars packed to the roof.

The scene was set last Saturday when jams on the M5 extended nearly 20 miles at one point as holidaymakers were forced to wait through miles of roadworks. Today, the jams are likely to be even longer as the last of the

nation's schools give up their children for the start of the summer holidays.

For those travelling across Britain, the holiday will start miserably with 20 key hotspots for jams identified by the AA, which predicts this will be the worst summer yet for travelling by car.

The Highways Agency is apologetic — but unable to help clear roadworks ahead of the holiday season, according to Peter Nutt, the agency's

operations director. He says: "We lift a lot of roadworks for the summer in tourist areas but sometimes it isn't possible to do this and delays do occur."

But jams could be the least of the worries for many driv-

ers who will be involved in accidents caused by inexperience, tiredness and frustration. There will be more people than usual on the roads, many of them driving as far in a fortnight as they would normally do in three months.

Police warn not to drive for more than two hours at a stretch without a rest, particularly when the weather is hot and temperatures are rising inside the car as the family becomes fractious.

For motorists travelling abroad, the hazards are even greater: Britain has one of the lowest accident rates in the world but unsuspecting British drivers will have to cope with unfamiliar road signs, different driving styles and

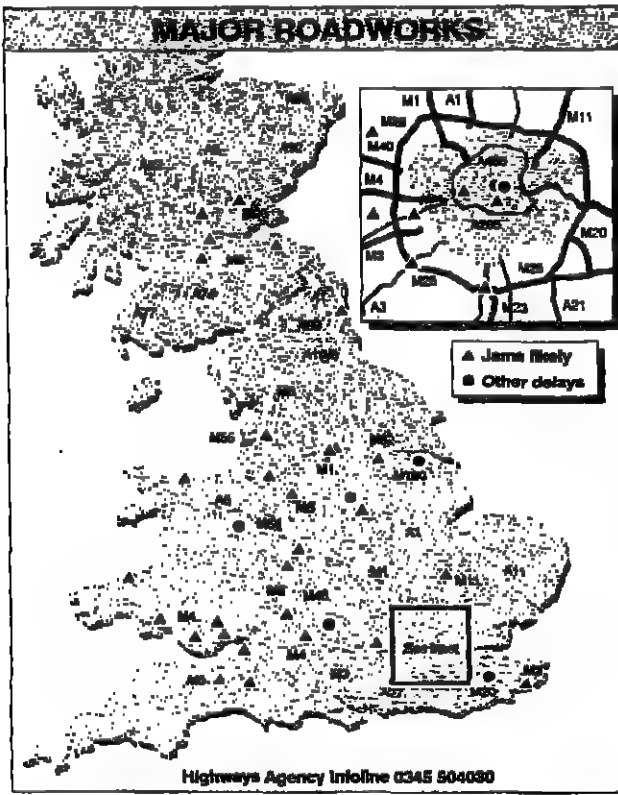
new laws. The result will be pandemonium for those naive enough to set off without preparation.

Southern European countries have much more hazardous roads than Britain. While the rate for road deaths is 6.8 per 100,000 in the UK, it is 12.6 in Italy, 16.3 in Spain, 30.3 in Greece and 32.9 in Portugal, which is Europe's most dangerous country for motorists.

Driving on the right — the "wrong" side of the road for Brits — is just one hazard, but they must also cope with the sort of driving from motorists in some countries which is not quite as logical and ordered as it is at home. The RAC also warns that motorists might not be so alert because they are in holiday mood, chatting to the children or fiddling with the radio when they should be studying the road ahead.

That is also when they could fall foul of foreign laws. Some of the more bizarre local regulations need sweating up on, such as the requirement in Spain for drivers who wear glasses to carry a spare set in the car; in France, speed limits are lower when it is raining; while in Germany, motorists can be fined for swearing or making rude gestures.

Halfords, the accessories company, warns: "Knowing local laws can be a lifesaver. Motorists will discover that they are paying on-the-spot fines or getting into trouble because they do not understand what they are doing."



Highways Agency info line 0345 504030

ANGER — CHILD PASSENGERS

Minimists do not yet appear on the list of hazardous substances that could endanger drivers. But four-year-old Antonia almost caused a crash when her parents discovered she had missed her mouth with her sweet and stuck it up her nose.

Parents will this weekend be loading up the family hatchback with all that "essential equipment" which includes buggies, buckets and spades, beach balls and toys. They will have the car serviced, check the baby seats are secure and refill the first-aid box for an accident-free holiday.

Unfortunately, the biggest hazard on their journey is probably sitting in the back seats, a seemingly innocent bundle who can transform an ordinary journey into a nerve-shredding experience.

Seven per cent of parents surveyed by the RAC say they have been involved in an accident because they were distracted by their children. Eleven per cent narrowly missed crashing into the car ahead while nearly a quarter reported they missed turnings and got lost because of the racket from the back seat.

No wonder, according to the RAC's dossier of incidents drawn up after talking to 450 parents at the start of a campaign to promote safer

holiday driving. Apart from Antonia's misguided mini imperial, parents told of three-year-old Rebecca who threw her toy under the brake pedal of the car and jammed it. Sam, aged two, opened the car door while it was moving at 40mph and was only saved from a terrifying fall by his five-year-old brother.

Clearly Sam should have been strapped in, but parents know that even baby seats cannot keep the determined down. Jake, aged five, undid his belt and jumped into the front passenger seat to change gear — the sort of distraction that can at worst lead to disaster but at the least distracts parents from what is happening on the road.

One woman drove past a police patrol at 95mph on the motorway while trying to referee a fight between her children in the back. A father in a BMW took a sharp corner with one hand on the steering wheel, the other hand bottle-feeding his baby strapped into a baby-carrier in the front seat.

Stirling Moss, Britain's most famous racing driver, who tackled some of the toughest circuits in the world, says: "I thought Formula One racing was a challenge until I came across car journeys with my children."

TEN HOLIDAY DRIVING TIPS

- Make sure you have documents: passports (British visitors' passports are no longer valid), driving licence (with international permit for Spain), vehicle registration document, hire-car forms, green card and insurance note. An E11 Certificate of Entitlement covers you for medical emergencies.
- Get yourself insurance cover covering breakdowns across Europe, repatriation and medical problems.
- Service the car a couple of weeks before the holidays so problems can reveal themselves. Check the fan belt, tyres, water and oil levels. Get a GB sticker, but don't take a can of petrol on to a ferry.
- Get spares: fan belt, bulb kit, fuse kit, battery jump-leads, tyre pump, some tools and a first-aid kit.
- Halfords' booklet, *Driving into Europe*, recommends noting key towns and cities and route numbers so there are no missed turnings on the way.
- Don't leave valuables — passports, documents, travellers' cheques and credit cards — in the car. There are thieves abroad too.

- In an accident, report to the police, produce your insurance documents and inform your insurer. Don't sign anything without taking legal advice beforehand and take photographs of the scene of the incident. Get full details of the other party.
- Stick to the local laws, and be on your best behaviour: don't drink and drive; don't speed (there are on-the-spot fines) and do wear seat-belts, front and rear.
- Don't overload the car with luggage; ensure you know who has the right of way in each country, use dipped headlights in poor weather.
- Check for the correct fuel: unleaded petrol is sans plomb (French), Bleifrei (German), sin plomo (Portuguese/Spanish), senza piombo (Italian), loodvrije (Dutch). Diesel is diesel (Denmark, Netherlands, Germany), gasoil (France), gasolio (Italy), gasoleo (Portugal).



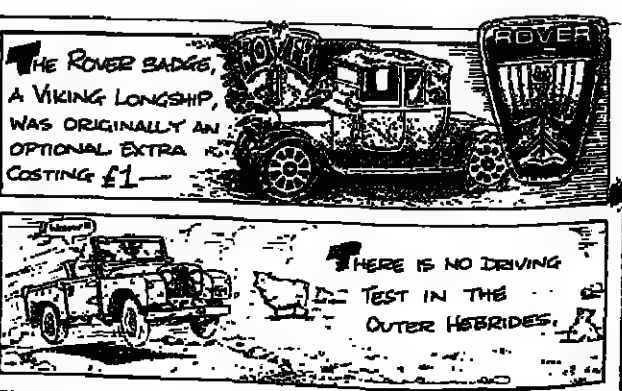
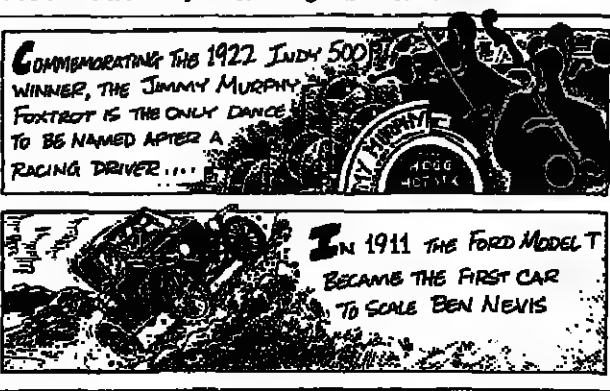
Holiday prize

Win a special Halfords summer vacation touring kit worth £115

NO MATTER how big the car, there is never enough room for all essential equipment for a family holiday. Which is why Halfords, the leading auto accessories chain, is offering readers of *Car 96* the chance to win a fabulous summer touring kit worth £115, comprising a Halfords 300L roof box, car fan, soft-drinks holder, sunglasses, sun blind, coin holder, headlamp converter for Europe and GB sticker.

There are 25 kits to be won — and 1,000 booklets, called *Driving into Europe*, with a full explanation of the rules and regulations of the road, in all the major holiday nations of Europe. Just answer this question to enter: What is the motorway speed limit in France? Send your answer with full name and address on a postcard to: Halfords/Car 96 offer, PO Box 15, London SW6 3TU. Closing date August 3.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



Superb picnic accoutrements from a bygone age are up for auction. Alan Copps enjoyed trying them out



All the best elements of a British summer: 6.7 litres of purring Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, some of the best-kept bespoke picnic ware from the golden era of prewar motoring, some fine companionship — and a blustery, cloudy afternoon

Hampered with luxury

It was the perfect day for an English picnic: clouds hung overhead, the sun fitfully peeped through and a blustery wind tumbled hair, swirled skirts and scattered leaves across the rugs. But this was no ordinary picnic. The guests had been wined to the park in a Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, all 6.7 litres purring calmly along the outside lane of the M4 past the frantic airport-bound traffic to an appointment at Windsor. There were no Royal guests, but the waiting feast would be fit for a Queen and served in appropriate style.

For in the boot of the Rolls-Royce nestled three magnificent picnic hampers, one of them alone probably worth more than the car itself. The accoutrements of motoring in style are now as sought after as the vehicles themselves, especially if they date from the golden age between the wars when motoring was still largely a preserve of the rich and its accessories were often executed with the same lavish attention to detail as a work of art.

Along with a brace of amazing Mercedes, an imposing Packard, a sensational Stutz, a line-up of Lancias, an array of Aston Martins, a battery of Bentleys and a whole range of Rolls-Royces these hampers will be among the star lots at Brooks sale at Ascot Racecourse next Friday.

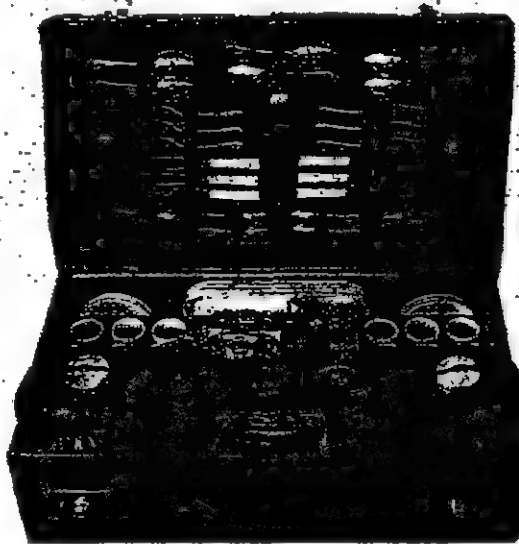
The principal transport for our outing represented a man's indulgence from the proceeds of decades humouredly chronicling the ups and downs of married life. The Silver Spirit, with its oyster paintwork and dark leather interior, was bought new in 1983 by Barry Appleby, the

cartoonist, renowned for his strip the Gambols in which poor George is always addressed as "dear" before the nagging starts. It has never had another owner and after 72,685 miles, as carefully recorded as any of the Gambols' domestic scenes, it is estimated to fetch £15,000 - £20,000.

But however grand and distinguished the Rolls-Royce it is not unique. The contents of its boot are. Our main picnic hamper was commissioned from Asprey of Bond Street by Viscount Ridley in the 1920s, its fine leather case is lined with pigskin and polished wood and contains just about everything six people would need for a picnic on raccourse, park or grouse moor. It has a solid nickel kettle on a freewheel stand, twin wicker-covered drinks bottles, an array of wicker-covered containers for condiments, gill-rimmed rectangular enamel plates and a full set of Asprey cutlery. Just in case the British climate should live up to its reputation it is also equipped with a foul-weather canvas case.

As Brooks's catalogue says, the only thing it lacks is "a very strong chauffeur or butler to carry this imposing and superb picnic set". Whoever thinks of paying an estimated £18,000 - £22,000 for this exquisite and intricately fitted hamper would do well to heed those words. Heaving all that nickel and silver out of the Rolls-Royce's boot was effort enough to work up a good thirst.

The extraordinary thing about these hampers is not just the quality of the silver, glass, pewter, enamel and china that make up the cutlery and crockery but the ingenuity that went into designing a container in



which all the delicate bits would be held firmly in place. Those of us more used to carrying picnics in an overstuffed cool box and a couple of bursting carrier bags can only marvel at the work.

The glasses in the Asprey hamper stack neatly and are protected by their wicker covering while the ceramic sandwich box and twin food boxes slot neatly into pigskin-lined niches. The invitation to this splendid picnic happily coincided with a visit to London by several family friends some of whom we had not seen for many years. So Ingeborg, Margrete and Rigmor from Norway and Birgit and Gudrun from Germany found

The Asprey hamper bought by Viscount Ridley contains a solid nickel kettle with stand and burner, 16th Century bottles, various containers designed for condiments, six stacking glasses in wicker covers, six fine white china cups and saucers and six enamel plates, together with sandwich and food boxes

Wyndham-Mottram of Portland Street. It's an example of the kind of hamper designed to fit on the running board of an Edwardian car and has a striking red leather lining and a very unusual twin kettle burner. It is estimated at £3,000 - £4,000. According to Barber these three items are part of the best selection of hampers, vanity cases and luggage Brooks have offered.

With all this admirable detail it would be easy to neglect the food, but fortunately Brooks had thought of everything. Yes, there was a whole poached salmon and some champagne and just a taste of caviar. It was a good picnic but there are some pretty good cars in the sale next Friday as well, further evidence that the market for really good classics is beginning to recover from the long recession. Top prices of about £150,000 are likely to be fetched by two Mercedes, a 1937 540K supercharged cabriolet once owned by the Rockefeller family and a stunning red example of the famous Gulwing 300SL coupe dating from 1955.

Other lots range from a 1965 Fiat 500, estimated at £400 - £500 to one of the most desirable postwar Bentleys made, a 1954 R-Type Continental Fastback saloon. It has most elegant coachwork, and in its day, according to one reviewer, would have justified the claim of being the world's fastest production car.

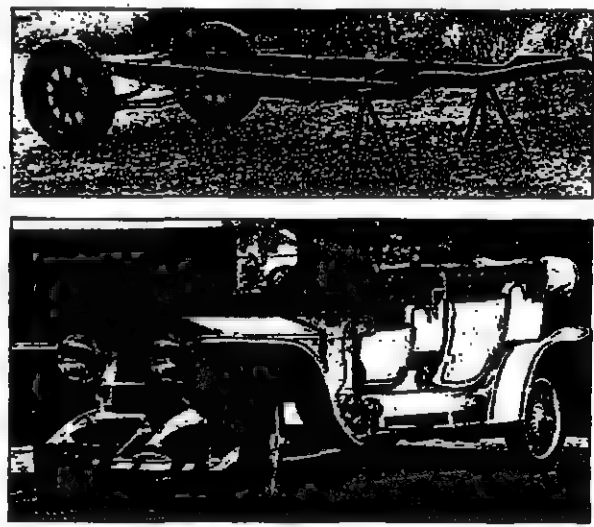
Brooks's sale at Ascot Racecourse, Berkshire on August 2 starts at 10am (collectables), 3pm (cars). Details 0711-228 8000.

BUILD YOUR OWN VINTAGE ROLLS

If you want a unique Rolls-Royce dating from the first quarter of this century, Brooks's sale at Ascot includes enough parts to build your own. Lots 684 to 691 consist of a 1910 Silver Ghost chassis with front axle only, a 40/50hp engine, four artillery wheels, a Silver Ghost gearbox, a 1924 Silver Ghost running chassis, a 1912 Roi-de-Beiges body and two rear-side assemblies with various other bits.

This collection of major components has been gathered from several different sources and some of the lots would cost a buyer rather more than some of the complete cars on offer. The first chassis was found in Kent being used as a flat-bed trailer. It looks simply like two steel members with a single axle, but by dating various components it has been established as a rare lightweight ladder chassis for the earliest versions of the classic Rolls-Royce. The engine was found and fully restored in Denmark many years ago and could fetch £20,000 - £30,000, an estimate similar to that for the running chassis, which has also been restored.

Few designs could match the extravagance of the Roi-de-Beiges body which was made by Wilkinson's of Derby for a 1912 40/50hp Silver Ghost. Just the car for Mr Toad.



The 1910 Silver Ghost Chassis (top) was being used as a trailer. The Roi-de-Beiges body (below) was built in Derby

HOW FAST AND HOW NEW - THE FERRARI 550

Continued from page 1
"Fantastic," he murmured as we hit the grandstand straight, "200kph in a moment." Yes, thank you son... er, sorry, Mr Fischella, I murmured in return.

The 550 was clearly covering the ground at amazing speed, yet each bend seemed remarkably relaxed, more like sitting in a low-flying living room than charging around the track in a sports car. Apart from the occasional wiggle of the tail signalled by tyre squeal there was almost no sensation of noise; no Ferrari engine growl snarling from behind the head as usual, just seamless, near silent progress from corner to corner, each straight a blur.

Fischella liked the car a lot and we agreed a run to the Cote d'Azur would be the 550's strength, miles of tarmac passing by at speed, the car barely working for its keep, the driver and passenger relaxed, comfortable and safe.

Michael Schumacher likes the 550 Maranello too, but then he is one of the few people who can afford to spend £145,000 on his daily runabout thanks to the \$26 million wage packet he gets from Ferrari.

Not that he will have to worry about getting his name down with his local Ferrari dealer before they are all sold out; apparently, Schumacher already has one on order — because the 550 will be his next company car.

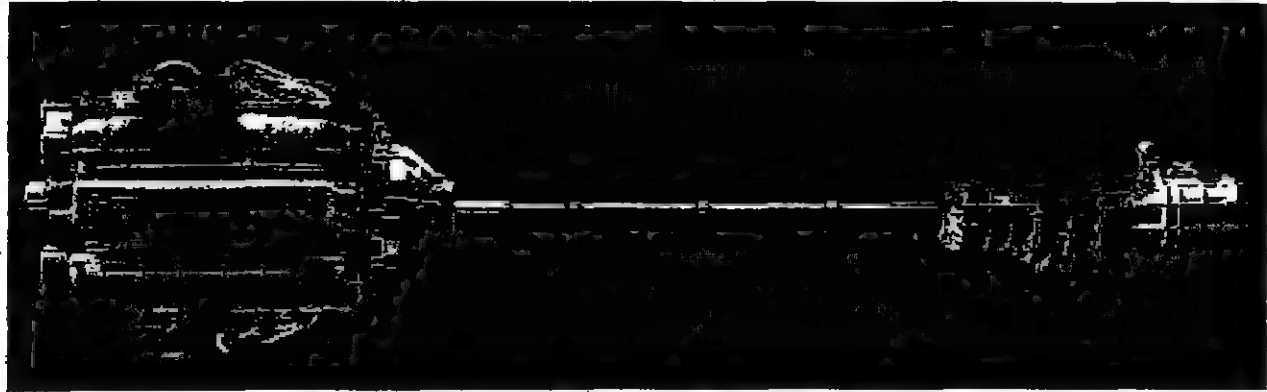
Putting power right to the fore

Kevin Eason
on the all-new
Ferrari format

Ferrari has gone back to the front in its new supercar. After years when mid-engined models seemed to define the strengths of the supercar, the engine is now back in its traditional position under the bonnet.

It was Sergio Pininfarina who originally urged Enzo Ferrari to move from a front-engined layout to the middle of the car. Ironically, Pininfarina has had the job of turning back the clock to days reminiscent of the old 1968 Daytona model, the last of the great front-engined supercars.

"Mr Ferrari did not want to go to a mid-engine design because he feared the cars would be too fast for the road," explains Pininfarina. "But that layout gives more



stability, more performance and that is the way Ferraris have been." Front-engine layout gives more passenger room though, something that Luca di Montezemolo was firm about. The doors are wide, making entry to the car easier while

the cabin is lighter and rear visibility better than in the 512 or Testarossa. Even a few years ago, the trick of putting 485 brake horsepower onto the tarmac reliably would be impossible in a front-engined car. The weight up front combined

with the 550's performance would have created an uncontrollable beast. But modern traction control to prevent wheelspin, anti-lock brakes and active suspension have transformed the concept, allowing Ferrari to make a car which outperforms all of its

other road-based models yet offers near-saloon-car comfort. The electronic suspension measures acceleration at each corner, stiffening when it needs to, while the front wheel track is wider than the rear to allow accurate turning. There is an anti-dive system to prevent the car pitching forward under braking.

Pininfarina says: "The technology is just so advanced now that we can choose what we want the car to be without the fear of deciding where to put the engine."

The bodywork is made from aluminium for lightness, although the 550 Maranello still weighs 84 kilos more than the 512 model it replaces. In spite of its size though, the 550 is remarkably agile and offers a stable and firm ride — and you can hear the compact disc player at speed, something the 512 never offered.

FERRARI 550 MARANELLO

Price: £145,000 expected
On sale: next year but 120 already ordered.
Probably no more than 80 or 90 cars available in the UK in a full year.
Engine and drivetrain: 5.5-litre, 48-valve V12, generating 485 brake horsepower through a six-speed manual gearbox driving the rear wheels.
Anti-lock brakes, traction control and electronically-controlled active suspension are all standard equipment.
Performance: 0 - 60mph in 4.3 seconds, top speed 198mph.
Stopping time: Brembo brakes — car stops

from 62mph in 36 metres or 2.5 seconds and from 175mph in 286 metres or 7.6 seconds.
Fuel economy: Better not to know; eight miles to the gallon in town means plenty of chances to show off on the forecourt filling the 25-gallon (114-litre) fuel tank.
Equipment: leather-trimmed storage shell, all-leather interior, CD-player with six-disc changer, tool kit, alarm and immobiliser, driver and passenger airbag, electrically-operated seat adjustment, air-conditioning. You have to drive the car yourself, as Michael Schumacher is not available as an optional extra.

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93K Mercedes Manual, White, Elec.S/P/roof, Air Bag, P.A.S., Cl.Locking, 38K	£16,485
94M BMW 318i Coupe Auto, Bright Red, P.A.S., Alloy, 22K	£14,575
92J Land Rover Discovery TDI 5 2.5 Manual, 7 Seater, Metallic Grey, Dbl.S/P/roof, P.A.S., Alloy, 45K	£19,575
94M Omega CDX 2.5 V6 Manual, Blue, P.A.S., Air Con, 38K	£12,975
95J BMW 318i Convertible, Red, P.A.S., Alloy, F.S.H., 22K	£12,975
94L Mazda MX6 Coupe Auto, Metallic Red, Elec.S/P/roof, P.A.S., Alloy, A.B.S., 36K	£12,775
93K BMW 320i SE 4dr Manual, Metallic Red, Elec.S/P/roof, P.A.S., Alloy, 38K	£11,975
94L Audi 80 1.8, Red, Elec.S/P/roof, P.A.S., Cl.Locking, 38K	£8,995
95J VW Golf 2.0 GTI 5dr, Metallic Blue, Elec.S/P/roof, P.A.S., Alloy, 35K	£8,575

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Half the new-plate car deals will involve finance schemes. Rupert Saunders examines the small print

Like it or loathe it, the fact is that almost a quarter of the new cars bought this year will be sold in the four weeks of August. But that's not the only thing that makes August a special month for the motor trade.

Although for most of the year the UK's new-car market is dominated by the company car buyer, in August it is the private motorist who is king — about 65 per cent of all August new-car sales go to private motorists.

With sales expected to top 475,000 next month, that means ordinary Mr and Mrs Motorist turning up in droves on dealers' doorsteps clutching the cheques they can exchange for their new P-plate car. That seems to mean that the financial constraints that have prevented new car sales from taking off recently are now finally removed, with more ordinary buyers returning to the marketplace.

Few though will be raiding their building society accounts to pay for their new wheels. According to the Finance & Leasing Association, around half the 287,000 or so cars bought privately this August will be on finance schemes.

The importance of money-lending to the motor industry cannot be overestimated. Last year, the major manufacturers spent more

August bonanza for loan arrangers

money in August advertising their finance schemes than they did the cars themselves. This year, if the advertisements are to be believed, cars are being cut in half and placed in art galleries or driven down flights of steps.

Yet the latest research by *What Car?* magazine shows that most people will spend several months deciding which car to buy and then sign up to the first finance scheme offered by the car salesman just to clinch the deal. They will haggle over purchase price, but few will question an interest rate or a finance package.

In fact there are only four basic types of finance package currently available to the private buyer. It is the marketing and the interest rates that set them apart. One of the most innovative packages is the 50-50-type scheme which was introduced to the market by Vauxhall last summer.

Not surprisingly, it proved immensely popular, with more than 35,000 cars sold this way and several other major manufacturers introducing their own variants.

Under 50-50, you pay for half of the car now. Then you pay nothing

more for two years (some manufacturers offer the finance over only one year), after which time you pay the final 50 per cent and the car is yours.

The advantages are obvious. You are only putting in half the full cost of the car at the outset and you have two years in which either to save up for the final payment or keep your remaining money in the bank earning interest. But there are disadvantages too. You have to be reasonably wealthy, or have a reasonable car to part exchange, to put up the 50 per cent in the first place.

Look out also for the fact that 50-50 schemes are usually only available on a limited range of cars. For instance, Ford's much advertised Half & Half only applies to certain Escort models, while Vauxhall's 50-50 is restricted to Astra, Calibra and selected Corsa and Fronteras. It is never worth buying a car you don't really want just because it comes with a good finance deal.

These sorts of packages are a



variation on a low-rate hire purchase and an alternative is to look for cars which are offered with "0% finance". This usually means putting down a 50 per cent deposit and then paying off the outstanding balance on a monthly basis over one or two years, but without any interest charges being added. Peugeot, Citroën and Fiat are always strong in this field.

For buyers with less cash available to put down as a deposit, there are either personal loans, traditional hire purchase or the more recent Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) schemes to consider. All can be applied to both new and used-car buying, though you may find some restrictions on which cars you can buy with a PCP.

Ford were first into the market with a PCP when they launched Options in 1992 and it is still the best-known scheme but almost every manufacturer and car dealer can now offer you something similar. A PCP works by making an assumption about the value of your car after two or three years and then deferring the payment of that value until the end of the two or three-year finance period. This final payment is often called the "Guaranteed Final Value".

In the meantime, you pay a sum each month to cover the difference between the cash price and the deferred value, plus an interest charge. The effective result is a flexible deposit amount and much lower monthly payments than you would face under traditional hire purchase.

This is the benefit which most dealers will sell to you. However, it is important to concentrate also on what will happen at the end of the finance period — because the deferred payment will have to be

made, one way or another. The sales brochures talk about you having three options, including simply handing the car back and walking away.

But the reality is that you will want to have a car of some sort. So you either have to get a personal loan to pay off the deferred value or trade your car in, hoping that it is worth more than the deferred value and leaving you with a sensible deposit for the next car you buy.

For that reason, it is better at the outset to keep the final payment as low as possible, even if it does mean larger monthly payments. Don't let a dealer convince you that a high "Guaranteed Final Value" is to your advantage, despite the fancy wording. Rover, and Volkswagen, Audi, Seat and Skoda (all VW Finance), dealers are probably the most flexible on this score.

From time to time, all manufacturers will offer specially promoted PCP packages which include low interest rates, payment holidays and even cash-back schemes based on several months' payments. All these are worth considering if they

apply to a car you have already chosen to buy. Intriguingly, Renault is the only major car company that does not have a PCP scheme available at the moment, yet it has also come up with one of the most attractive and flexible August offers: Freeway.

Although no one element of the offer is particularly innovative, Freeway is good because it can be applied to absolutely any new car in the Renault range, leaving you with plenty of choice, and the interest rates are very competitive.

Ultimately, of course, you have maximum choice if you arrange your own personal loan before you go anywhere near the dealer in the first place. It's worth bearing in mind that interest rates in the high street are the lowest ever and, for loans over £5,000, you should be able to borrow at around 13 to 13.5 per cent APR.

But it is a myth that you will get a better price from the salesman if you go in as a cash buyer. These days car dealers make more money from arranging finance than they do on selling new cars — so don't expect sympathetic treatment.

Rupert Saunders edits the Money section of *What Car?* magazine

Bait to get you on to a plate

Here come the lures Vaughan Freeman says

New cars with old prices, extra equipment at no extra cost and reassuring noises about your new car's second-hand value; all are part of the bait being proffered by carmakers this August.

For all the hype surrounding the new registration prefix, the carmakers know that while motorists might like a new car next month, they first must be convinced that, worries over mortgages, job security and school fees aside, they can actually afford one.

Which is why Proton is offering what it calls "time-warped" prices, offering cars at their summer 1991 prices. That means £600 off the Escort-sized four-door 1.3-litre Mpi Summer Special, now priced at £6,999, and £650 off the larger Perseus 1.5-litre GLSi Special family saloon, priced at £9,999.

Something for nothing is the seat here. It has thrown in air-conditioning, pollen filter, twin airbags and seven seats as standard on its 2-litre, five-door £16,445 Alhambra SE multi-purpose vehicle.

Worries about depreciation have spurred Renault's P-plate initiative: by the end of the first year of ownership a new car will probably be worth barely two-thirds what it cost — equivalent to losing around £80 a week in depreciation.

Renault has dug into the motor-trade's price guides to come up with future used values, known as residuals, on its Laguna and Clio models to soothe depreciation worries.

The French manufacturer calculates that over the course of two years, looking at actual trade-in prices quoted for two-year-old cars, its Laguna RT 2-litre, which in 1994 cost £12,275 new, would now fetch £9,225, a drop of 25 per cent, whereas a 1994 Peugeot 405 1.8 GLX or VW Passat 2.0 CL, will each have lost 47 per cent of their value, leaving the Laguna owner £4,000.

The truth of August, though, is that if you want an absolutely new model, wait until October or later. Most of the models in the showrooms are old stock and new versions don't come along until later in the year. Prime example is Nissan's Primera which is being revamped but will not be available for a few months.

However, there is something new to buy: Mercedes has its new C-class estates available while Nissan has updated its Serena MPV in time for the August rush. Renault has its exciting new Megane 16v coupe while Skoda, one of the fastest-growing manufacturers around at the moment, has a new range of 1.6-litre multi-valve engine in its Felicia range.

August is so important month that Mitsubishi is launching its Carisma saloon, ahead of the car's official unveiling at the Paris Motor Show in October.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI V6

Body style: four-door saloon or five-door hatchback with split rear seat.

Engine: V6, 24-valve, 2.5-litre, producing 170bhp at 5800 rpm.

Transmission: five-speed manual. Front-wheel drive.

Performance: maximum speed 143mph, 0-60mph in 8 seconds.

Economy: urban cycle 24.4mpg; constant 35mph, 41.5mpg; constant 75mph, 34mpg.

Equipment: driver's airbag, anti-lock brakes, remote-control central locking, engine

deadlock, traction control, ultrasonic alarm system, trip computer, six-speaker stereo system with steering-wheel-mounted radio controls, driver's seat-height adjustment, lumbar adjustment, pollen filter, leather steering-wheel, alloy

wheels, twin exhaust system tail pipes, rear spoiler with integrated high-mounted brake light.

Insurance Group: to be confirmed.

Price: circa £18,000.

Launch: August 20.



THE FORD SCORPIO 2.3 ULTIMA

FORD SCORPIO

Body style: Four-door saloon or estate. Much-criticised front end grows on you.

Engine: Four-cylinder, 16-valve, 2.3-litre producing 147bhp at 5,700rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual or four-speed automatic (£1,020 option in Ghia versions).

Performance: Max speed (manual) 130mph, 0-60mph in 9.2 seconds. Max speed (auto) 127mph, 0-60mph in 10.6 seconds.

Economy: Urban 21.4mpg; constant 35mph, 40.4mpg; constant 75mph, 33.2mpg (automatic saloon).

Equipment: Driver's airbag; engine immobiliser; remote central locking; large format audio system with steering column controls; trip computer; In Ultima: cruise control, air conditioning and CD autochange.

Insurance group: 13.

Price: £20,270 (Ghia saloon or estate manual); £22,725 (Ultima saloon or estate automatic or manual); £23,725 (Ultima Leather).



THE AUDI A8 4.2 QUATRO



AUDI A8 4.2 QUATRO

Body style: four-door saloon with weight-saving aluminium spaceframe structure.

Engine: V8, 32-valve, 4.2-litre producing 300bhp at 6000rpm with electronic fuel injection.

Transmission: four-speed automatic gearbox incorporating tiptronic manual change. Permanent four-wheel-drive and EDL (electronic differential lock) traction-control system.

Performance: max speed 155mph (electronically limited engine), 0-62mph in 7.3 seconds.

Economy: urban driving cycle 17.1mpg; constant 35mph, 34.4mpg; 75mph, 27.7mpg.

Equipment: driver and passenger airbags, safety belt pre-tensioners, alarm and immobiliser, adjustable steering column, leather upholstery, on-board computer, pollen filter, climate control, stereo radio cassette and six CD autochanger.

Insurance group: 20.

Price: £49,458.

When the Vauxhall Vectra was launched at the end of last year, it had a lot to live up to, writes Helen Mount. It replaced Vauxhall's biggest-selling car ever, the Cavalier. But it quickly became clear that the range lacked sparkle: it was missing a true sporting derivative. That's why the Sri V6 joins the range.

According to Stuart Harris, the Vectra's marketing manager: "The Vectra range satisfies about 90 per cent of our target buyers, but the Sri V6 is in direct response to the 10 per cent who demand a truly engaging driver's car."

There's already an Sri with a four-cylinder, 2-litre engine, but it's been universally criticised for feeble performance, soft suspension, and a lack of the handling prowess which marks out a genuinely sporty car. The adoption of the 2.5-litre, 24-valve V6 engine which powers luxury Vectras (as well as the larger Omega, and the Saab 900) was an obvious step towards rectifying part of the problem.

But the big news is that the suspension has been stiffened by 25 per cent, the steering is sharper and more precise, and the tyres are now ultra-low profile, low rolling-resistance affairs.

These changes don't sound like much on paper, but they're surprisingly effective on the road. Plunge into a bend at speed in any other V6 Vectra and its soft suspension makes it wallow and heave. The Sri is tauter, its body staying much flatter through the corner. This means the ride quality is harder than other models, but it remains sufficiently comfortable to make long journeys a pleasure.

The Vectra Sri V6 goes on sale on August 20, when it will be available as a four-door saloon, five-door hatchback, and later an estate. You'll need sharp eyes to spot one because the external differences over lesser models don't amount to much more than twin tail-pipes, and a boot spoiler fitted with the 1997 regulation high-mounted brake light.

With its mournful frog headlamps, the Scorpio which superseded the Granada two years ago has failed to match the sector-dominating performance of other Fords, writes Ian Morton.

Sales in Britain last year totalled 10,761 but lagged behind the Mercedes C-Class and E-Class, Vauxhall Omega and BMW 5-Series. So Ford is aiming to jolt P-registration sales with a revised model line-up, a specification boost, some judicious repricing, and an impressive new 2.3-litre engine.

From next week the Ghia becomes the basic model, to be joined by a Ghia X, the Ultima is improved and an Ultima leather version is the peak of the range. The new 2.3-litre 16-valve engine which replaces the 2-litre is claimed with some justification to be the quietest of its type. Ford expects it to account for as much as 80 per cent of UK sales.

The quietness comes from twin balancer shafts, which lie parallel with the crankshaft and spin at twice its speed and in the opposite direction. Their effect is to counter noise and vibration. They have been successfully employed in recent times by Lancia, Mitsubishi and Porsche.

The dynamic effect is remarkable. While the engine produces an exuberant shout under hard acceleration, it lapses into near-silence while cruising. At the legal motorway limit the only sounds are the rattle of the tyres and a faint flutter around the door mirrors. No four-cylinder Ford has ever been more discreet.

There are other benefits too. While this is no huge performer in executive car terms its maximum power is delivered at lower revs, allowing greater flexibility, safer overtaking and a 10 per cent cut in fuel consumption. The automatic, with French-built transmission is expected to be the most popular model, since the manual box supplied by Halewood is slow and heavy to handle and does not match the satin nature of the 2.3 engine.

Think of an executive limousine and you usually have to think of a chauffeur, too. Most really large cars that will intimidate as a mobile drawing room or office are impractical in town unless you can afford to employ someone to sit in the driver's seat full-time, writes Alan Capps.

That's what makes the Audi A8 exceptional: its agility belies its size. It may have the virtues of an autobahn cruiser but it will also round the tight corners of a multi-storey car park with as much ease as many a smaller machine. Admittedly, once you find the parking space you have to remember that this car is rather bigger than the average saloon. It has one of the most effective air-conditioning systems I've encountered, adjusting the airflow not just according to the exterior temperature but to the direction and intensity of the sun.

When the A8 was launched two years ago it was mainly noted for its extensive use of aluminium, which reduced weight dramatically in a part of the car market where electronic sophistication is taken for granted and where demands for stringent safety measures and higher equipment levels have increased the weight of almost all its rivals.

The weight saving contributes to its agility, but its other great asset is the tiptronic gearbox that comes as standard. This gives the driver the chance to override the automatic using a simple clutchless sequential change: forward for up, backwards for down. You wouldn't want to use it on a motorway or in town because the auto's there to do the work. My one major criticism would be that the change is much too clunky at traffic crawling speed for a car of this quality.

But on a country lane tiptronic comes into its own. The virtues of four-wheel-drive cornering and the zippy performance can be used to the full with a certainty and precision not normally associated with automatic transmission. It's rare to find an executive limousine which is such fun to drive.

CAR...TOONS



New-registration second-hand cars will this week offer big savings, writes Vaughan Freeman

Used car dealers take the P already

The first second-hand P-registered cars will go on sale this week within hours of the difference between a brand new car and their N-reg used vehicles. Says Dicesare: "The only difference was that the used cars were selling on a N were £1,500 to £2,000 cheaper than the brand new cars available from a dealer. Some of the cars will only have delivery mileage on them, others just a few thousand miles."

Having driven the gleaming P-reg car home, it would take a super-diligent neighbour to work out whether the new arrival was indeed new or nearly-used. Only close scrutiny of the vehicle's registration documents would reveal the truth.

The Motor House car super-market at Cannock, in Staffordshire, is one of the giant retailers that will be selling P-reg used cars come Thursday and Friday. To franchised dealers the sale on the day when they are selling the very first brand new P-reg cars is a major irritant.

For manufacturers too it is frustrating, since August is the month when a quarter of the year's new cars will be sold. Car makers spend most of the spring building and stocking ready for when the private buyer is happy to spend money in return for that gleaming P-plated car.

Last year Motor House did the same, offering used N-reg cars for sale, and asking visitors to the massive site to spot the difference between a brand new car and their N-reg used vehicles. Says Dicesare: "The only difference was that the used cars were selling on a N were £1,500 to £2,000 cheaper than the brand new cars available from a dealer. Some of the cars will only have delivery mileage on them, others just a few thousand miles."

The reaction is incredible, both from the rest of the trade and from the customers. Obviously it is a highly favourable

reaction from the customers, and a bit shock-horror from the dealers, who just sit and wonder how the hell have we got hold of them."

So how do outlets like Motor House get hold of such new cars and manage to be selling them used on a P plate so quickly? Dicesare says, "Like any good journalist, I am unable to reveal my sources."

The Motor House is part of the retail revolution now rolling across Britain's car sales industry. At any one time, there are more than 1,000 one and two-year old M and N-registered cars for sale, and the company estimates it sells

an average 44 cars a day, and more than 16,000 cars a year. The key to the operation, rather than making a lot of money on each individual sale, is to deal in huge volumes so that thin margins on such vast numbers make the whole enterprise profitable. The same thinking applies to the sale of used P-reg cars on August 1: while little money can be made on the individual sale, even a thin margin is worth working for, and there are benefits from the publicity that such sales generate.

The outlet's success might also reflect the growing disen-

chantment amongst the car-buying public with the prices being charged by manufacturers for new cars. Total new car sales rose from 1.9 million in 1994 to 1.95 million in 1995 according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, but sales to private buyers fell from 940,000 (48 per cent) to 913,000 (47 per cent). At the same time, the recent Lex report on motor-ing found new car prices rising faster than inflation, and even company car fleets turning to the provision of second-hand cars.

Motor House: 01545 506060



USED NEW CAR BRIEF

MODEL	Jun-96	Jul-96	Chge
Audi 80 2.0E estate	13450	13095	-2.64
Audi S4 estate 6-speed	27500	27250	-0.91
BMW 518i Touring	15395	15295	-0.65
BMW 525i SE Touring	21000	20750	-1.19
Citroen ZX 1.4i Reflex estate	6995	6995	0.00
Citroen XM 2.0V6X turbo estate	12695	12695	0.00
Fiat Tempra 2.0E SLX Station Wagon	7595	7495	-1.32
Ford Escort 1.6LX estate	9195	9095	-1.22
Ford Mondeo 1.8LX estate	9095	8975	-1.32
Ford Scorpio 2.9i auto estate	14595	14495	-0.99
Honda Aerodeck 2.2i ES	14995	14995	-3.36
Lada Riva 1500E estate	3195	3095	-3.13
Land Rover Discovery 300TDi	17250	17095	-0.90
Mazda 626 2.0i estate	10750	10750	0.00
Mercedes-Benz E200 auto estate	22250	22000	-1.12
Mitsubishi Space Wagon 2.0GLXi	12595	12495	-1.22
Nissan Sunny 1.6LX estate	7950	7850	-1.26
Nissan Primera 1.6SLX estate	9675	9675	0.00
Nissan Serena 2.0SLX	12295	12295	0.00
Peugeot 405 2.0KGR estate	9925	9875	-0.50
Peugeot 405 1.9GRD estate	10895	10895	-2.75
Renault Espace 2.0RN	13350	13350	0.00
Renault Espace 2.9RDE auto	17350	17350	0.00
Rover 418 Tourer	10895	10895	-0.91
Scoda Favorit GLX estate	5550	5550	-1.87
Subaru Impreza 1.6GLi 4wd estate	12595	12595	0.00
Subaru Impreza 2000 4wd	15295	15195	-0.65
Subaru Legacy 2.0 4-cam turbo estate	15895	15895	0.00
Toyota Corolla 1.3GLi estate	8475	8425	-0.59
Toyota Carina E 1.6GLi estate	9195	9150	-0.49
Toyota Camry 3.0 V6 auto estate	15795	15450	-2.18
Toyota Provia 2.4GL auto	18250	18590	2.48
Vauxhall Astra 1.4LS estate	8250	8175	-0.91
Vauxhall Astra 1.7LS TD estate	9225	9125	-1.08
Vauxhall Omega 3.0 V6 Elite auto	19295	18950	-1.58
Vauxhall Omega 2.0 16V GLS	12795	12595	-1.58
Vauxhall Monterey 3.2i V6 Ltd	16595	16095	-1.22
Volkswagen Passat 1.6CLi estate	10495	10395	-0.95
Volkswagen Passat TDI estate	11450	11350	-0.87
Volvo 850 2.5 GLT estate	18195	18395	1.10
Volvo 850 2.0 20V SE estate	16495	16895	2.42
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth estate	15750	15550	-0.68
Volvo 960 3.0 auto estate	20750	20500	-1.20
BMW 520i Touring auto	18450	17995	-2.47
Ford Mondeo 2.0i GLX auto estate	9525	9425	-1.05
Mercedes-Benz E320 estate	23500	23000	-1.69
Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8S	17255	17025	-1.18
Renault 21 RTD estate diesel	9850	9750	-1.01
Suzuki Vitara J1X SE 5-dr	10495	10395	-0.95
Rover Montego 2.0i Countryman	9225	8995	-2.49

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer discount prices. MS = Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Price changes based on MSRP. Low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research.

ABOUT four million people have logged on to the Internet site that combines information on Vauxhall models with live reports on motorway traffic conditions since it was launched in January. Most manufacturers now offer information about their new cars on the world wide web, but Vauxhall's site was set up in partnership with Trafficmaster.

As well as details of the Vectra and Frontera ranges, the site's traffic information pages offer a map of the

motorway system together with the most recent Trafficmaster text messages listing congestion hazards. By clicking on an area of specific interest a user can call up a detailed local map with super-imposed coloured arrows indicating direction, speed and length of traffic flow and tailbacks.

The information is provided by Trafficmaster's network of sensors along motorways and trunk roads in England. The service is free to net users: <http://www.vauxhall.co.uk>

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Your sad tales of vehicles Satan wouldn't sell second-hand still pour in, reports Tony Dawe

TVR went more like a Trabant

The makers of an exclusive range of sports cars issued an extraordinary ultimatum to one of its customers after finally agreeing to take off his hands a model which had given him 15 months of misery: don't ever darken our doors again.

The demand that neither Jeremy Moore "nor any associate" should attempt to purchase one of their new cars again was one of several actions by TVR Engineering in the face of bitter criticism of a new £32,000 Chimera.

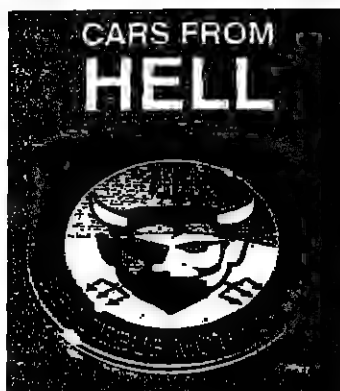
The story serves as a warning to the 475,000 motorists eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new P-registration model next month that occasionally even the newest and most exciting models can still behave like old bangers.

Moore's TVR is just one of scores of "cars from hell" reported to Car 96 in the four months since we launched the series on dissatisfied drivers for whom motoring had become a nightmare. We have received complaints about other top-of-the-range models including Audis and Mercedes as well as Fords and Fiats.

"The Chimera looked wonderful but in performance terms it was Britain's answer to the Trabant," says Moore, a management consultant from Hatch End, Middlesex. "It was the worst car I have had in 30 years of motoring."

He bought it in February last year from the TVR Centre at Arkeley, Hertfordshire, with high hopes of exciting motoring ahead—but it was off the road for four of the remaining ten months of the year. He had to be rescued on five occasions by the AA Relay service after breaking down.

The list of problems recorded by Moore included the engine overheating, electrical failures, faulty air conditioning, faulty wipers, a rattling exhaust and a rear suspension which needed replacing. Rain leaked in between the windows and



the removable top, into the boot and into the driver's foot-well, rotting the carpet.

"The speedometer packed up and the radio, which had cost £1,200 as an additional extra, didn't work outside north London—or anywhere if it rained," Moore adds.

One cold day, I started the car and left the engine running with the keys in the ignition. When I returned, the car had locked itself. I phoned the manufacturers and they said I would have to break a window, but I managed to poke a broom in through the back and ease the top off.

"On three occasions the windows suddenly steamed up so I couldn't see. I had to unwind the windows frantically, mop the windscreen and hope I could stop before hitting anything. The engine used to stall and wouldn't restart for two or three minutes. On one trip to the West End, it stalled 32 times."

As the faults continued, Moore took up his complaints with TVR Engineering's head office and asked for his car to be replaced. Frustrated by the lack of response, he wrote directly to P. R. Wheeler, the chairman, asking for "the courtesy of a reply". In a one-paragraph response, Wheeler

wrote: "I am rather puzzled by your use of the word 'courtesy' as I am convinced you do not know the meaning of the word."

Moore admits that on one occasion anger got the better of him and he marched into the TVR Centre at Arkeley, "shouting, waving my arms around and saying the car was rubbish". The sales company's response was to threaten him with an injunction banning him from their premises.

After months of argument, the TVR Centre finally agreed to sell the Chimera for Moore and obtained a price of £28,450, which was £3,550 less than he had paid.

As part of the deal, the company asked Moore to agree "that neither he nor any associate of his shall at any time in the future purchase a new TVR", and also to promise that he would not publicise the problems he had suffered. He refused. Duncan Callow of the Legal Protection Group, which took up his case, says: "Never before have I come across a company trying to gag a dissatisfied customer or trying to stop him or his family from ever buying another of their products. Mr Moore is understandably angry but he has been tolerant and patient. He is not alone: I have received ten similar stories about TVRs breaking down."

As the conflict continued, Moore contacted Car 96 and we in turn sought help on his behalf from TVR Engineering. The company's response was to contact lawyers and we received a letter from solicitors acting for the TVR Centre claiming that there were "numerous inaccuracies in Moore's story" and objecting to his comments about the final settlement.

We were happy to remove those comments from this article. Moore has received his money but no compensation for the breakdowns he endured. In their letters, the lawyers made no attempt to counter the criticisms of the car.



Angry owner Jeremy Moore was instructed by TVR never to purchase another of its cars again

Expensive Legacy

Faulty paint, knocking suspension and misfire were denied as problems

THE WOODCOCK family's second car was supposed to be an economical estate to carry Mary Woodcock, her three children and Irish wolfhound in reasonable comfort on daily journeys.

After more than three years of

miserable motoring in their car from hell, Jeremy Woodcock reports that the Subaru Legacy 2.2GX Estate has "cost more to run, more to service and more to insure" than his own BMW.

"I have had many different

makes of car in the past. Some have been problematical and some not, but never have I met such a stonewall approach from the dealers and the makers' customer-care department," says Dr Woodcock, a dentist from Great Missenden,

The Subaru dealer shut shop after servicing the car wrongly and then charging too much



money," Dr Woodcock says. Two further problems soon developed: a persistent misfire on acceleration and a knocking noise from the front suspension. Both were reported to the dealer who investigated and said that nothing was wrong. Shortly afterwards, the car developed a clutch judder.

THE PROBLEMS continued despite routine services which became increasingly expensive. "The last 30,000-mile service cost us well over £400," says Dr Woodcock. "This service should have included a clutch inspection and full road test. A month later, the clutch failed."

"By this time, the dealer had gone out of business. I wrote to Subaru UK inquiring about the exceptionally heavy cost of the

service and, to my amazement, was told that the garage had incorrectly identified our vehicle and done the wrong service on it.

"The correct service would have cost much less but, as the dealer had ceased to trade, nothing could be done."

The clutch was repaired by a local non-franchised garage, which discovered the suspension knock and misfire when it took the car on a road test and then rectified the faults.

Dr Woodcock wrote again to Subaru UK with a full report but received a noncommittal reply. A company manager told Car 96 that it could not be held responsible for errors which might have been made by a dealer, and could do nothing about them as the dealer had closed down.

The German Grand Prix sets a high-speed test of old-fashioned danger

PALMER'S KNOWLEDGE

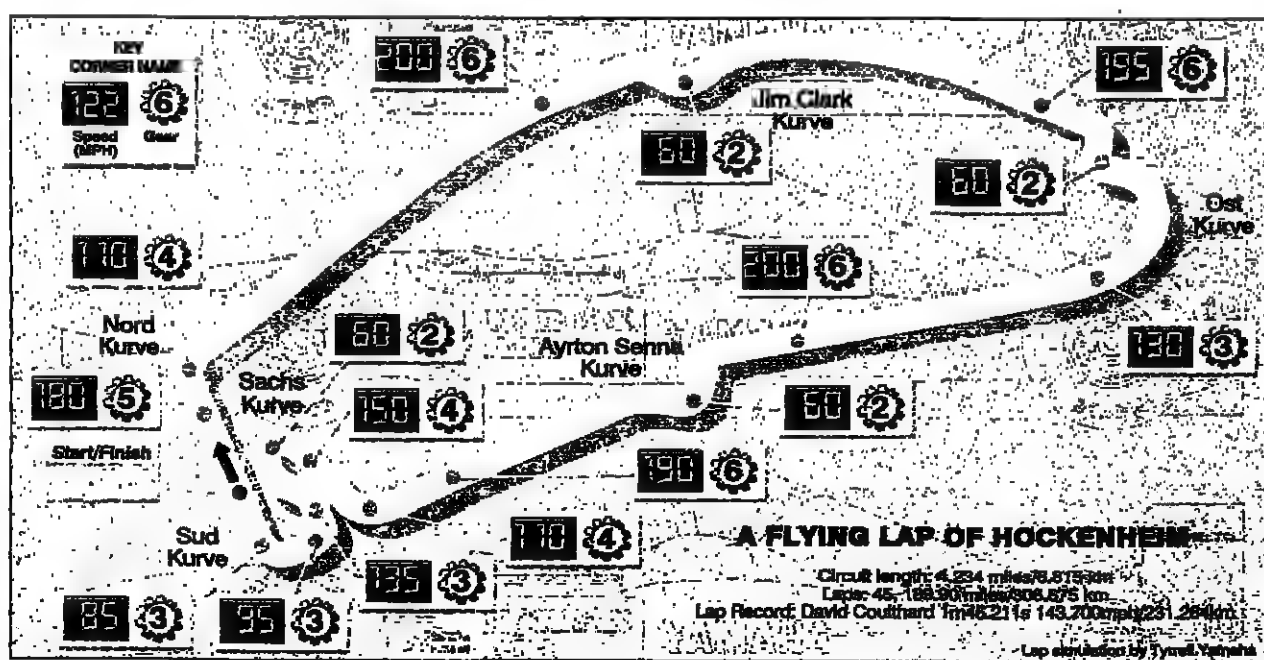


Something is spooky about Hockenheim, the home of the German Grand Prix. There are circuits at which danger seems remote, even absent. These tend to be the modern, relatively slow, twisty tracks with huge gravel traps distancing the spectators from the action and the drivers from the barriers—Nurburgring is a good example.

Hockenheim reminds you that motor racing is dangerous. Drivers feel it as soon as they arrive, a certain sense of trepidation. Of course you don't talk about it, you probably don't even admit it, for any weakness will be seized upon by competitors.

The circuit is long—just over four miles. The twisty Stadium section is civilisation: it includes the paddock and the start/finish straight amid convoluted slow corners and is set in the middle of vast concrete grandstands, accommodating 100,000 flag-waving, firework-launching, German fans.

After the first corner, the circuit heads into the wilderness for three miles of high-speed driving through the forest. This used to be one virtually flat-out 190mph stretch, two straights linked by a huge 180-degree corner.



Where fear reigns among the trees

It was obvious that the exhilarating 170mph corner had the potential for a dreadful accident. It happened on August 1, 1980, when Patrick Depailler lost control of his Alfa Romeo Formula One car while testing for the German Grand Prix. He was killed instantly. Now the three-mile forest section has three chicanes, but it still leaves three long straights, where top speeds are up to 210mph—the fastest at any circuit.

It is this that provokes apprehension. If something breaks at 120mph the chances are that by the time you've

spun and scrubbed off some speed you may only be doing 70 when you leave the track. The run off area and gravel trap may absorb another 40mph leaving you with a 30 mph chunk into the tyre wall. Initially scary, but ultimately no big deal.

At 180 mph it's a different story. The energy that must be dissipated rises by the square of the speed, and the aerodynamic stability that we all take for granted is dependent on the car going forwards on four wheels. Spin a car at 180 and it has every chance of being flipped into the air; from then

on, it's an aircraft accident with your destiny in the lap of the gods.

The straights are not wide at Hockenheim and neither are the run-off areas, but at least they have Armco barriers, introduced since the circuit claimed its most legendary victim, double-World Champion, Jim Clark.

When you're driving, the combination of concentration, adrenalin, determination and focus on the task overwhelms such thoughts—unless it rains. Driving in a 200mph convoy in the dry when you can see is one thing. In the wet

it is a nightmare, for here visibility can be even more appalling than ever. The forest lining the track hinders the dissipation of the spray, it lingers, menacingly, potentially concealing cars relatively cruising at 130mph.

But for all that, Damon Hill's biggest fear tomorrow will be of being beaten by his team mate, Jacques Villeneuve which would erode his now-vulnerable world-championship lead. It could happen, for the chicane-hopping technique required here may suit Villeneuve, while Schumacher's Ferrari is due to be faster with some new tweaks—but for how long?

And watch out for the improving McLarens, especially eager to go well in front of Mercedes' home crowd. The straight-line speed kings of Jordan Peugeot will be right there too. Nevertheless, Damon's still my man.

Win a day on the track worth £165

Today The Times, in association with Everyman Motor Racing at Mallory Park, offers readers the chance to test their driving skills with a prize worth £165.

The winner can choose from a wide range of driving activities, including racing cars, rally cars, off-road cars, plus he or she can tackle a tank and military vehicles. Two runners-up receive a pair of tickets to any race meeting of their choice—and there are 40 to choose from—at Mallory Park, Leicestershire.

All you have to do to enter is call our competition hotline 0891-40 50 06 with your answer to the following question:

Who won the 1996 British Grand Prix? The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight on Wednesday July 31, 1996.

● Graham Harmer of Worthing, West Sussex, won the last test drive competition.

CALL 0891-40 50 06

If you would like to enjoy a day out at Mallory Park, call 01455 841 670 for information.



On the eve of the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim we have a clear leader at the top of our fantasy leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot. Mr I Laurensen heads the table on 5,201 points after his teams performance in the British Grand Prix. Below we print the top 18 positions after the nine grand prix races in our competition. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count in our game.

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To improve your team you can change up to four of your drivers on your transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is allowed in the transfer period. More than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

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Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the British Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday July 31.

CALL 0891-774 734 24-HRS

0891 calls are charged at 35p per minute cheap rate and 45p at all other times.



Sebastian Coe with the Vauxhall Frontera he is swapping for a large car that can accommodate three children, three dogs, his wife and himself

Good runner with own seat

STEERING COLUMN

Sebastian Coe tells Andrew Pierce he is a late starter at driving

How did you first learn to drive?

No Olympics could be complete without one of its most illustrious medal winners: Sebastian Coe. While the 1500-metre champion turned Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne has been denied his spot in the BBC commentators' box because he has just joined the Government as a junior whip, he will be in Atlanta as a fan to cheer on the national team. Coe, 39, has produced an illustrated book, *The Olympics*, which profiles the athletes who inspired him. He won two Olympic gold medals and two silvers, and remarkably, the 800-metre world record that he set in 1981 remains unbroken and has thus become enshrined in athletics history as the longest unbeaten record.

I was a late starter. I was an Olympic champion before I obtained my driving licence. I passed my test in 1981, when I was 25, at the first attempt. It turned heads as I was driving around Loughborough, where I lived, with my L-plates on. I had never got round to learning because I was never in one place for more than ten weeks at a time because of the pressure of competition.

What was your first car?

You are talking to a motoring illiterate. It was some form of Saab, which I had on a sponsorship deal. I had been voted by sports writers the Hertz athlete of the year and the prize was the use of the car for a year. I gave it to my father who would always have preferred me to have won the Tour de France than an Olympic 800-metre medal. I won the Hertz prize for a second year and gave that car to a Northern runner who was showing great promise... his name was Steve Cram.

What car do you drive now and why?

I am between cars. I have a Vauxhall Frontera at the moment but not for long, while my wife has a Ford Mondeo estate. I am commuting from my home in Cornwall to London by train and plane via Newquay Airport. I will buy a new car in the next few weeks, but it will have to be big as it will have to accommodate three children, three dogs, my wife and me. I have yet to make up my mind.

Do you like driving?

Not desperately. It does not do much for me. I enjoy the five-hour drive to the constituency though because there is no mobile telephone in the car.

What is your most hated car?

I don't know enough about cars to care but I would say anyone that has the temerity to park in the space outside my house.

What is your dream car?

I do not dream about cars. I dream about anything other

than cars such as the time I won the Olympics, became an MP, got married, and when I became Prime Minister. My dreams are very vivid and I have a great imagination.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Being a jazz fanatic, the music blares out when I am driving. To the fury of my wife, I keep a constant beat on the footrest.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they sit three feet behind me on the motorway. It's even worse if they have recognised me and they are trying to get close. On my very first day in the Commons, when I was introduced to my secretary, she asked if I had driven across Hammersmith Flyover that morning. When I told her I had, she said she knew. She had just had a Mr Angry on the telephone complaining that I had cut him up.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Losing it on the forecourt of a petrol station at the beginning of the year. I left the keys in the car, went to pay, having filled up with petrol. When I got back to the car 45 seconds later, it was nowhere to be seen. I was stunned. It was all the harder to bear as, being a canny Yorkshireman, I had put £20 of petrol in it. The car turned up six months later. Such an indignity.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Intermittently. It is not only on the racetrack that I go into top gear.

What do you listen to in the car?

Catholic taste: Ella Fitzgerald.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Well I never expected such heady promotion in the reshuffle. I would tell the one we have got (Sir George Young) what a great job he has done. I would then set about creating my very own lane on the M25. It can be a complete nightmare on a Friday, virtual gridlock, when driving back to the constituency.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The one with that model (Paula Hamilton) who had dumped the keys to her VW down the grate. It was the model, not the car, I recall.



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Are you up to the skills test?

Drivers with a nervous right foot need not apply: the ultimate test for drivers who enter the Motor City Challenge test of skills will be proving that they can drive slowly.

The skills test is one of a series of events in Coventry over the weekend of August 31 to celebrate the city as birthplace of the car 100 years ago. The centenary weekend will be packed with events and famous faces.

But drivers are being given the chance to test their abilities on a 90-mile course around the Midlands with 20 challenges at ten venues. No special competition licences or insurance are required, only enthusiasm, a car and a minimum £40 donation to the BEN motor charity to enter.

Any driver or team of drivers and any type of car can take part, from humble hatchbacks to expensive exotics. There will be categories for new drivers, women teams, disabled drivers, unusual models, drivers of Coventry marques — Jaguar, Peugeot and Rover — and there will even be a team from Car 96 taking part.

The idea is to celebrate and have fun, as well as enjoying some of the tests devised by the Institute of Advanced Motorists. There will be a test of navigational skills, while

MOTOR CITY COVENTRY
20th August to 1st September 1996

the IAM will put drivers through their paces looking for those who have mastered the car, not at high speed but at the lowest speeds when control is important.

The tests include a unique hill challenge at the Motor Industry Research Association headquarters, one of Britain's key test sites for carmakers. MIRA has three hills — a one in six, one in five and then the dreaded one in four. The skills-challenge contestants will be expected to climb each one smoothly. Then there will be a low-average-speed test of the sort that London cabbies have to pass.

Organisers at The Motor in the City office have details of local hotels and the weekend's events, as well as entry forms for the skills challenge. Warwick University is also offering cheap accommodation (contact 01203-523523 or try the Coventry Visitor Bureau on 0800-243748).

To enter, contact Motor in the City, PO Box 200, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 7TR

Good life behind the wire

Eric Lomax is astonished to learn how well Japanese PoWs fared in American custody

THIS is a remarkable book in many ways. First published in Japan in 1952, it has now been translated into English, eight years after the author's death.

Ooka Shohai was born in Tokyo in 1909 and was drafted into the Imperial Japanese Army in 1944 at the age of 35, an indication of the desperate state of the country at that time. He was sent to join the ill-equipped Japanese "expeditionary" garrison of 1,000 men on the island of Mindoro, in the Philippines.

After his capture by the American forces early in 1945, Ooka was sent to a POW camp on Leyte. The main part of *Taken Captive* is devoted to his experiences there throughout 1945.

The conditions in which the Japanese prisoners lived are astonishing. Ooka complains of the excessive amount of food, such as corned beef and cocoa, provided by the US Army, of the lack of useful work, of the lack of exercise and of his fellows, several hundred in all, getting too fat. The PoWs eventually accumulated so much clothing that they burnt the surplus.

TAKEN CAPTIVE: A Japanese PoW's Story
By Ooka Shohai
John Wiley, £16.99
ISBN 0 471 14285 9

British and other allied survivors of Japanese POW camps will find the secure and comfortable life of their Japanese opposite numbers hard to accept. At that same time, in 1945, allied PoWs in Asia were dying from a combination of problems including near-starvation. In the Philippines, American PoWs were brutally murdered in large numbers, until relief came with the dropping of the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The real value of this book lies in its detailed commentary on life and the relationships between the Japanese PoWs thrown together on Leyte. Unlike the British PoWs, who adhered to traditional British Army ranks, the Japanese inmates developed their own new organisational structures, almost as if the community was a civilian one, with personal status based on power.



Camp bounty: Japanese prisoners complained of being too well fed

The reader of this book may well have problems. The text is edited together from a series of essays published separately after the war. Consequently there is thus much duplication, the text does not progress smoothly and is not in proper chronological sequence.

Nevertheless, I know of no comparable book. The reader must beware,

however, for Ooka was a distinguished Japanese novelist. The result is that *Taken Captive* can best be described as a combination of fact and fiction, built around a factual framework. It is massive and probably unique.

Eric Lomax is the author of *The Railway Man* (Vintage £6.99), an account of his captivity under the Japanese, which won this year's NCR Book Award.

Whine, sinning and song

■ WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS...
By Norman Lebrecht
Simon & Schuster, £16.99
ISBN 0 684 81681 4

EVER wondered what Pavarotti earns in a year? Or how much James Galway charges for a concert? Norman Lebrecht has the answers (\$16.18 million and £8,500, respectively). He can also tell you which orchestra has the best salary package in the world, which are the top six classical record labels and how old Plácido Domingo probably is.

In fact, just about the only thing Lebrecht is reluctant to reveal is the identity of the miscreants whose crimes he catalogues in chapter one: the "top conductor" with a "compulsion for sex with underage boys", the other "celebrated conductor" who surrounded himself with admiring teenagers and habitually abused them, the "director" who has apparently assured the nine-year absence from Covent Garden of a British counter-tenor who refused his sexual advances. No wonder Jilly Cooper put this book at the top of her summer reading list in *The Times* the other week.

Armed with a sharp eye for detail and an unerring nose for smut, Lebrecht wrestles gamely with the sharks that lurk in the murky waters of classical music. He describes a business in crisis, and with only itself to blame. Genius has given way to greed, aristocracy to accountancy, creativity to



Pavarotti: massive income

commerce and corruption. "The Concert to End All Concerts is almost upon us."

The arguments are powerfully put, and some of them are even true. But are things quite as bad as Lebrecht is determined to claim? Are we really witnessing what his subtitle terms "the corporate murder of classical music"?

Almost certainly not. We may be running out of monstrous maestros; we may be sick of the sound of Nessun dorma; we may have more orchestras than we can reasonably expect to support. But there are more than enough compensations. Small, specialist ensembles thrive. The repertoire — live and on CD — has a variety that a decade ago would have seemed inconceivable. Standards are as high as they have been for years. And when the programme, the performers and the price are right, audiences will queue round the block. If Lebrecht's own voice were a little less strident, he might still hear the music loud and clear.

IAN BRUNSKILL

Reynard's misguided rescuers

■ THE BLOOD IS WILD
By Bridget MacCaskill
with photographs by
Don MacCaskill
Jonathan Cape, £9.99
ISBN 0 224 03698 X

THERE CANNOT be many naturalists who have braved the style of a golden eagle to stalk the feathers of its young, or watched a wildcat at bay as it attempts to ferry its kittens across a loch, or witnessed a dog fox being chased from a sett by angry badgers. For describing these and other fascinating encounters with nature in the raw, the MacCaskills — he a forester and wildlife photographer, she an enthusiastic observer of animal life — deserve high praise. They have invested time, patience and skill in securing some breathtaking images, and the results are frequently enthralling.

But this is no *Born Free* or *Ring of Bright Water*. The prose is folksy, the descriptions saccharine sweet. Fox cubs are forever tumbling out of their dens, nostrils twitch in the evening breeze, and the heather-clad hills are dappled with ditches. The story at the heart of it involves the rescue, nurture and final release of two young foxes into the wild. For all its heartwarming aspects, this was surely a questionable exercise.

The MacCaskills' thesis is that the fox is unfairly persecuted by the farmers, shepherds and gamekeepers, who view it as the enemy and kill it brutally. Eagles, they argue, would be far more effective in reducing fox numbers than



Motherly love: a vixen suckles her new-born cubs — photographed by Don MacCaskill

gin-traps or poison and, if these and other birds of prey were allowed to thrive, fewer lambs or young birds would be taken. I doubt if many Scottish gamekeepers watching their dwindling stock of grouse, would go along with that, and even the authors

themselves concede that fox numbers have greatly increased with the introduction of sheep onto the hills. By rescuing cubs who would otherwise die, then releasing them into the wild, are the MacCaskills not simply exacerbating the problem?

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Stalking course

"Mind Boggling Books Award", but WH Smith gives one every year specifically for "the best paperback children's read". This year the jury of ten schoolchildren chose an American book: *Walk Two*

Moons by Sharon Creech, who received £5,000. It is about a girl who travels across America in search of her lost mother.

MARK GERSON has been snapping writers for 40 years.

A Mancunian candidate for the chair of nostalgia

PAUL DRIVER is the latest graduate of the Honours School of Northern Nostalgia. First-class degrees have already been awarded to Keith Waterhouse and Alan Bennett (special subject Leeds).

Driver possesses the necessary qualifications for the nostalgia study course, namely diplomas in total recall and in list-making. He impressed this examiner with his ability to recollect a whole window display of working-class sweets and toffees ("Nuttall's Mints, Trebor Mint Imperials, stiff-wrapped Pascall Fruit Bonbons, Cadbury's Chocolate Ecclairs, buttermilk bonbons by Craven's of York, Keiller's little gold oblongs of butterscotch, and... Callard & Bowser's Brazil Nuts"), every building lining a favourite area, "the Height" (fringing from Kipsawer the outcrops to Johnson's "immemorial ironmongery") and — in five triumphant pages — the entire contents of his garden shed.

However, unlike Waterhouse (Bennett's exact childhood status never having been made absolutely clear), Driver was no precocious street ur-

■ MANCHESTER PIECES
By Paul Driver
Picador, £15.99
ISBN 0 330 34562 1



End of an eyecore: the Arndale Centre in the recent bomb attack

is today's drug-ridden Moss Side of Thomas De Quincey, the opium-eater. This may, on the other hand, be the last book which will ever bother to criticise the Arndale Centre, since this shopping mall was severely damaged by last month's IRA bomb and is unlikely to survive as what Driver calls "the vast, yellow-tiled, nauseating development which has long since spread across the centre of Manchester like a disease".

While Moss Side and the Arndale Centre are unquestionably in Manchester, this book is not really about Manchester at all, but about Salford, once the haunt of Lowry and the Walter Greenwood of *Love on the Dole* but, since those notable days, largely reconstructed in hideous form. Nor is Driver himself a true Mancunian, having been born outside the city's boundaries in Davy-hulme. When Winston Churchill, MP for Davy-hulme, once claimed in the Commons to be a representative of Manchester, I told him sharply not to give himself airs.

GERALD KAUFMAN

NEW IN PAPERBACK



God the lonely cosmic orphan: Kladderadatsch (1931)

■ GOD: A Biography
By Jack Miles
Simon & Schuster, £9.99
ISBN 0 684 81684 9

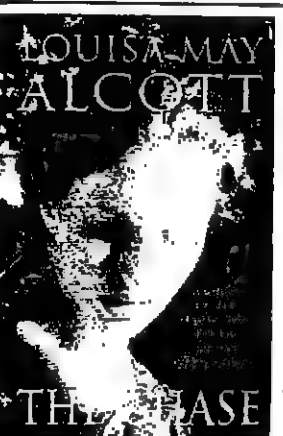
THIS extraordinary and original book puts God in the psychiatrist's chair, examining his character as it emerges from his first appearance at the Creation, through his stormy relationship with his chosen people to the reconciliation of the later Old Testament books. It is an impressive feat both of imagination and textual analysis, and as demanding as one would expect from an author who was once a Jesuit priest.

Miles has chosen to base his reading of God's character on the Hebrew Bible or Tanakh, which contains the same books as the Christian Old Testament but with the later ones presented in a slightly different sequence.

Since Miles perceives God as a character who is forever changing and developing, this order is significant.

The portrait of God that emerges from Miles's reading is strangely moving. He finds a lonely, multifaceted character, "a cosmic orphan" torn by his own contradictions, at one moment creative, at the next destructive, but gradually achieving self-knowledge and coming to terms with the wayward independence of the people he has created.

His relationship with man is recognisable as that between many a parent and child. As they both mature, God begins to reflect on his own actions and to relinquish control, but not before some violent scenes in which his actions are challenged, the turning point being his confrontation with Job.



■ THE CHASE
By Louisa May Alcott
Arrow, £4.99
ISBN 0 09 96641 9

SHE is Rosalind Vivien, a girl of 18, who gets her ideas from books and trains herself to walk on perilous balconies. She craves freedom and loves danger. He is Philip Tempest, a sanatic and ruthless man with a scar as sinister as his past. He craves remorse and despair. When they come together Rosalind's favourite tree is struck by lightning. Be careful what you wish for, Louisa May Alcott may be reminding us. Filled with the elaborate intrigue of an opera, the book is entertaining, suspenseful, and bears daring hints of feminism and sadomasochism. Tempest sums it up thus: "I like the chase, it is exciting, novel and absorbing."

■ DREAMHOUSE
By Alison Havers
Minerva, £6.99
ISBN 0 7493 1766 3

SO Celia Small is finally getting engaged. This will be the happiest day of her life. Or so she thinks. Her dreaded housemates are also holding parties. Escaping her disastrous engagement party, Celia follows a trail of drugged jam tarts into the surreal world of Alice in Wonderland. A farce of mistaken identities ensues (Celia is of course an anagram for Alice) but there is a darker side. Everything is turned upside down as events spiral out of control. Celia finally realises how awful her fiancé is, and goes to Kharoum.

■ RATTLEBONE
By Maxine Clair
Virago, £6.99
ISBN 1 85049 044 1

MISS October Brown the school teacher is bright and smart, with her shoulder pads and camel's gait, but when she takes up with Irene's father, Irene gets rid of her with a lie. Eleven stories, linked like a postcard set, show Irene's life in Rattlebone. Irene falls in love, and watches the estrangement between her father and mother, her friend worries about her beloved Down's syndrome brother, Pudlin. The stories are differently coloured, from comic to tragic. Vivid, vibrant and marvellous.

■ THE LOST MARINER By William Bedford
Abacus, £6.99, ISBN 0 349 10805 6

IN 1869, at age 14, after the death of both parents and then his grandmother, Samuel Vempey was indentured to a kind and wise skipper. He gave Samuel his first cockle, his first taste for the sea. When the skipper dies eight years later and Samuel's girlfriend disappears, Samuel thinks he can breathe easier with a job aboard the *Reichabite*. Instead, Bedford thrusts the reader into a voyage of brutality and abuse, headed by a zealous skipper and a cruel third hand. Samuel finds that the immense grief and loneliness of life on land is only matched by that at sea.



■ SMALL HOLDINGS
By Nicola Barker
Faber, £5.99
ISBN 0 571 17588 0

THIS promising novella by Nicola Barker unravels in a park in Palmers Green. The boss of an eccentric bunch of gardeners is going loco. Attraction and hostilities start running wild. Common or garden life becomes increasingly surreal as seen through the wide eyes of the blushing botanical expert, Phil, who knows plants' healing powers, but is hopelessly passive himself. Barker combines verbal playfulness with simple sentences. The park offers mysteries and amusements and is a metaphor for her concerns with the public and the private, order and chaos. That said, the story ambles.



■ THE BOOK OF COLOUR
By Julia Blackburn
Vintage, £5.99
ISBN 0 09 959281 9

THIS is a tale of family inheritance. A mixed-race bloodline, religious fervour, racial prejudice and mental illness are passed from generation to generation. Julia Blackburn's whimsical style creates a dreamlike quality as she leads the reader through the family's history, dipping at will into different minds and memories. *The Book of Colour* is her first novel and takes us on a voyage from the Prasin Islands, via Mauritius to England. It is crammed with the ripeness of tropical islands, the subdued tones of an English winter and the fears of miscegenation.

Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Natascha Hildebrandt, Amanda Loose, Fiona Hook, Kate Bassett, Victoria Walker

SEAN COUGHLIN

CHILDREN

LONDON
Children's Summer Fair
With helter-skelter rides and a bouncy castle in a miniature fair for youngsters.
Alexandra Park, Wood Green, N22. Today, ends tomorrow, midday-7pm; free admission.

Country Craft Fayre
Major Craft fair, with demonstrations and bands.
Ealing Common, Gunnersbury Avenue, W5 (01344 874 787). Today and tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £1-£3.

Gigantic Tinkles
Part of Blitz 96, this week-long event offers workshops and performances for children to explore the ins and outs of our human body.
Ballroom, Main Foyer, Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today, tomorrow, performances and workshops, 10.30am-3.45pm; workshops child £2.50, adult free, performances free.

Moscow State Circus
World-renowned circus featuring clowns and no animals.
Roundshaw Park, Croydon (0421 565 557). Today and tomorrow, 2pm and 7pm; £8-£20.

Sears and Bruises
A continuing series of summer film workshops looks at the use of make-up in film. For seven years and above.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 3699). Tomorrow, 12.45pm-4.45pm; £3.50, concs £1.75.

Summer Holiday Tours
Interactive tours of the gallery for ages eight to 11.
The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321). Today and tomorrow, 11.30am; free.

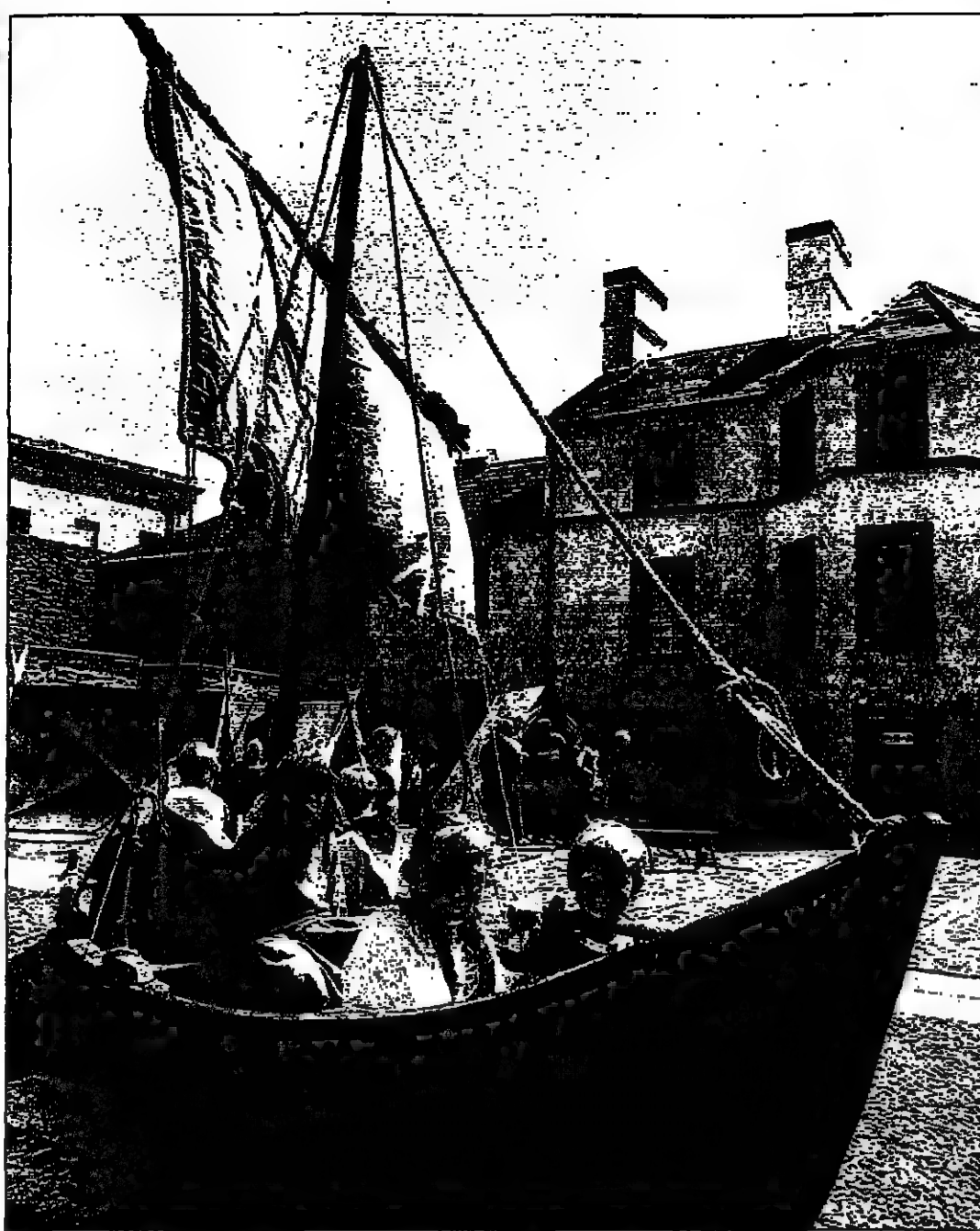
REGIONAL
ABERDEEN
The Vicious Circle Show
All-new circus experience with all-traditional magic.
Aberdeen Arts Centre, King Street (01224 635 208). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6, concs £4.

COLERAINE
Dorothy's Adventures in Oz
Unmissable, offbeat adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, performed by the Santa Monica Playhouse Theatre of Los Angeles. Part of a tour.
Riverside Theatre, University of Coleraine (01265 51388). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

DOWNPATRICK
The Vikings
Exciting show with CD-Rom facilities, life models and videos for children documenting the rise of the northern Europe conquerors.
Down County Museum, The Mall (01996 615 218). Today, tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; free.

LEEDS
Rhythms of the City
Major event on world music, featuring special children's activities, games and productions.
Rhythms of the City Festival, various venues (0113 244 2111). Today, tomorrow, times vary; mostly free, phone for details.

NEWPORT
Launch of Summer Fun Festival
Outdoor fun with a parade, face-painting, circus and ballooning competition.
Newport Town Centre, John Frost Square (01633 232 849). Today, 11.30am; free.



Downpatrick: set sail in a replica of a boat used by the Viking conquerors, at Down County Museum

GALLERIES

LONDON
Assembling the Family
Photographs exploring the genre of family portraiture.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, midday-6pm; free admission.

Fani and Carlos Bracher
Oil on canvas paintings from two Brazilian artists.
Cynthia Bourne Gallery, Clifford Street, W1 (0171-439 0007). Today, 10am-4pm; free.

Contemporary Spanish Realists
Comprehensive survey of still lifes and portraits.
Marlborough Gallery, Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161). Today, 10am-12.30pm; admission free.

CRITICS CHOICE

LEON KOSSOFF
As he turns 70 this year, Kossoff must no doubt be accounted one of Britain's senior masters. But somehow he does not seem like that it would be impossible, just looking at his paintings, to guess what generation he belonged to. This is because he has always gone his own way at his own pace. Although he has frequently been compared to Frank Auerbach (only five years younger), his work is in fact very different. Kossoff's technique sometimes seems chancy and his draughtsmanship childlike, but this retrospective makes it clear that he knows exactly what he is doing, and that nobody does it better.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8008). Today, 10am-5.50pm, tomorrow, 2pm-5.50pm; £4, concs £2.50.



Choice: Leon Kossoff's *Christchurch, Summer Afternoon*

BP Portrait Award
Annual exhibition.
Gallery of Modern Art, St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, noon-6pm; free.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH
Alberto Giacometti
Large-scale retrospective.
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford Road (0131-556 8921). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; £4, concs £2.50.

GLASGOW
Craigie Aitchison
The artist's first solo retrospective of paintings.
Gallery of Modern Art, Queen Street (0141-331 1854). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; free.

KENDAL
Ludwig Freud
Etchings and paintings by the acclaimed figurative painter.
Abbott Hall Art Gallery, Abbot Hall (01539 722 464). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.90.

POP

LONDON
95.8 Capital FM's Summer Jam
Robbie Williams, East 17, Belinda Carlisle, Gabrielle, Dodgy, Mark Morrison, the Lighthouse Family, Peter Andre, Let Loose, MN8, Shed Seven, Cathy Dennis and Tina Turner.
Clapham Common, Rookery Road, SW4 (0171-388 7575). Tomorrow, midday-4pm; free.

Elvis Costello and the Attractions
The New Wave intellectual plays his new album, *All That Useless Beauty*, with his original backing band.
Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £15.50.

Santitas
American guitar virtuoso with his conga-driven, Latin-tinged rock band.
Wembley Arena, Empire Way, HA9 (0181-900 1234). Tomorrow, 6.30pm; £17.50-£19.50.



London: Mark Morrison

REGIONAL
BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
Summer Folk Festival
Cosmotheke, the John Wright Band, Alison Kinneard and Christine Primrose, Macumba.
Maitlands Arts Centre, (01293 300 999). Today, 11am; £18.

BIRMINGHAM
Keith Sweat
Leading light of modern American soul.

National Exhibition Centre, (0121-780 4133). Tonight, 6.30pm; £17.50.

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge Folk Festival
Featuring the Saw Doctors, Alison Krauss and Union Station, Oysterband, the Rankin Family, Alan (today), Ray Davies, Penguin Cafe Orchestra, Oysterband, the Rankin Family, Alan (tomorrow).
Cherry Hinton Hall Grounds, Cherry Hinton (01223 463 346). Today, tomorrow, 9am; ticket holders only.

CLACKTON-ON-SEA
Shakespear's Sister
Slobhan Fahey's glam-pop band, now without old partner Marcella Detroit.
Princes Theatre, Town Hall, Station Road (01255 423 400). Tonight, 8pm; £10.50.

DUBLIN
Boyzone
Hugely successful band.
The Point, East Link Bridge (003531 836 3633). Tonight, 7pm; phone for availability.

GALWAY
The Big Day Out
With Radiohead, Neneh Cherry, the Bluetones, the Cardigans, the Divine Comedy and Ron Sexsmith.
Castlegar Sports Grounds, Dublin Road (01890 566 577). Tomorrow, 1.30pm; £20, concs £18.

GOSPORT
Jools Holland and His Rhythm and Blues Orchestra
The boogie-woogie piano man and television presenter plays the Gosport Festival.
Walpole Park, Walpole Road (01705 522 944). Tonight, 7.30pm; £12-£14.

CRITICS CHOICE

BRYAN ADAMS
The expatriate Canadian's skill as a songwriter has been undermined over the years by his populist instincts. And the sheer, mind-boggling scale of his biggest hit - *Everything I Do (I Do It For You)* - has obscured the more "credible" aspects of his repertoire as a whole. But nobody handles a stadium gig with quite the all-encompassing authority of Bryan Adams - from the air-punching anthems of *Summer of '69* to the fighters-alot balladry of his new single, *Let's Make a Night to Remember*.

DAVID SINCLAIR
Wembley Stadium, Empire Way, Middlesex (0181-900 1234). Tonight, 8pm (gates open 2pm); £25.50-£27.50.

JAZZ

LONDON
Ray Gaskins, Anita Carmichael Quartet
The purring of Australian singer Carmichael, plus the soul-jazz sax of Roy Ayers.
Ronnie Scott's, Friar Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm; £12.

CRITICS CHOICE

KIRK FRANKLIN
Contemporary gospel's hottest act parades his choir, the Family, before the faithful tonight. A standard-bearer for the so-called "new traditionalists", Franklin has concocted a hugely popular formula combining sanctified lyrics and a powerhouse dance band.

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

Jack Gibbons Plays Geršwin
Acclaimed pianist plays the finest Geršwin.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.45pm; £8-£14.

Jimmy McGriff/Hank Crawford Quartet
With Hammond grinder McGriff and blues-based tenorist Hank Crawford.
Jazz Cafe, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 7pm; £12.50, adv £10.50.

Mary Cleere Haran
Accompanied by Richard

Rodney Bennett at the piano, the New York cabaret star celebrates the music of Rodgers and Hart (and, in the late set, performs film songs of the 1940s).
Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tonight, 9.15pm and 11.15pm; £18.

Doris Troy
Gospel star of the West End's *Mama I Want to Sing* takes to wooing the diners.
Mezzo, Wardour Street, W1 (0171-314 4000). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; free for diners.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM
Almost Growa
Jazz-funk quintet featuring the Smallwood Brothers, inspired by the Isley Brothers and the Average White Band.
Ronnie Scott's, Broad Street (0121-643 4525). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.

EDINBURGH
Guy Nicholson's Jam Session
Led by Salsa Celtica's percussionist.
Henry's Cellar Bar, Morrison Street, opposite MGM Cinema (0131-221 1288). Tomorrow, 5.30pm; £2.

ILKLEY
Jon Taylor Quartet
Tenor saxophonist with pianist Tony Leigh and drummer Mike Ledgard.
Farside Cafe, (01943 602 030). Tomorrow, 12.30pm; free.

LIVERPOOL
Cantaloop
Cheltenham's finest hip-hop and funk band.
Hebblebees Club, Seel Street (0151-709 2666). Tonight, 9.30pm; £3.



London: George Gershwin

RUISLIP
National Youth Jazz Orchestra
Young British jazz talent.
Golf Centre, Ickenham Road (01895 638 081). Tomorrow, 12.30pm; £5, concs £4.

WAKEFIELD
Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen
Featuring the trumpet veteran, whose *Midnight in Moscow* was the first British single to break into the American charts.
Wakefield Theatre Royal and Opera House, Drury Lane (01924 211 311). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £3.95-£9.95, concs available.

FILMS

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

Denise Calls Up (15)
Lightweight, appealing lifestyle comedy from new American director Hal Salwen. With Alanna Ubach and Dan Gheeslin.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) *Curzon West End* (0171-369 1722) *Renoir* (0171-837 8402)

The Godfather Part II (18)
Majestic sequel to Coppola's Mafia epic, first released in 1974. With Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691)

Rainbow (PG)
Perils of voyaging over the rainbow. Oddball fantasy with an ecological twist from director-star Bob Hoskins. With Jacob Thierney, Willy Lavendal.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343)

CRITICS CHOICE

♦ TWISTER (PG)
Want to be whisked up in a tornado, and shattered and scattered across Oklahoma? This film will show you the way, though the cardboard characters and the sheer regularity of the tornado's devastation limits the amount of drama. With Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton. Co-written by Michael Crichton; directed by Jan De Bont (*Speed*).

GEORGE BROWN
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-626 6148) *Barbican* (0171-638 8891) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Empire* (0800-888 911) *MGM: Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031) *Notting Hill Coronet* (0171-727 6705) *Odeons*: Kensington (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Plaza* (01990 889990) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121) *Screen/Green* (0171-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* (01990 889990) *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-570 2636)

CURRENT

♦ The Hunchback of Notre Dame (U)
Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse, and perversely successful, mix of the cuddly and downright. Directors, Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *MGM: Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Chelsea* (0171-352 5096) *Odeons*: Kensington (01426 914666) *Leicester Square* (01426 915 683) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914 098) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121) *UCI Whiteleys* (01990 889990) *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-570 2636)

♦ Kingpin (12)
Unfunny comedy about hustlers on the road, with Woody Harrelson, Randy Quaid and Bill Murray.
Odeons West End (01426 915 574) *UCI Whiteleys* (01990 889990)

888 990 *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-570 2636)

♦ Moonlight and Valentino (15)
Widow finds comfort with family, friends and a house painter. Decent romantic drama, with Elizabeth Perkins, Kathleen Turner and Jon Bon Jovi.
Warner (0171-437 4343)

♦ Muppet Treasure Island (U)
Kermit and Miss Piggy invade Stevenson's classic. Jolly addition to the Muppet movie saga.
Ritz (0171-737 2121) *UCI Whiteleys* (01990 888 990)

BOOKS



London: Will Self, reading

LONDON
Will Self and Jack Scott
Rare opportunity to see the acclaimed duo read extracts.
Filthy Mac Nasty's and the Whiskey Cafe, Arwell Street, EC1 (0171-609 2543/337 6067). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £5.

REGIONAL
ABERDEEN
Ken Cockburn
The author leads an informal poetry masterclass.
Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct (01224 634 622). Today, 2pm; free.

NOTTINGHAM
Talking Pictures Talk Back
A chance for the public's views to be heard on the gallery's painting collection; comments will be displayed alongside.
Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery, (015 948 3504). Today, 10.30am-midday; free.

PLYMOUTH
Poetry Workshop
Kenny Knight leads a discussion on poetry and offers sound advice.
Plymouth Arts Centre, Loe Street (01752 660 060). Tonight, 8pm; £3.

CLASSICAL

LONDON
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Frühbeck de Burgos
Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Falla's *Atlántida* and Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand* (soloist Louis Lortie).
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £4-£18.

CRITICS CHOICE

VETERAN RETURNS
George Malcolm has been one of the central figures in British musical life for half a century - as cathedral organist and choirmaster, mercurial harpsichordist, and conductor. In tonight's Prom he conducts the English Chamber Orchestra in a fun programme of Mozart piano concertos (Andreas Schiff the pianist), Mozart's *Haffner Symphony* and Brahms's *St Anthony Variations*.
RICHARD MORRISON
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm; £4-£18.

Guildford
Philharmonie/Dei Mar
Tchaikovsky's thrilling Fourth Symphony and Dvorák's Cello Concerto.
Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50 and £13.50.

John Eli
Evening concert culminating from an earlier piano masterclass.
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 10am; £3.50 per session, Concert (6.30pm), £4.50 and £6.50.

New Helsinki Quartet
The Wigmore season ends with Janáček's *Intimate Letters* and Mozart's *Dissonance*.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£14.

REGIONAL

CANTERBURY
Berkshire Choral Festival, Britten Sinfonia/Halsey
Durufle's *Requiem* is followed by Haydn's *Motets* and Mass.
Canterbury Cathedral, (01222 595 635). Tonight, 7.30pm.

OXFORD
Oxford Concert Party
Bach and Vivaldi Baroque pieces to Piazzolla's tangos.
Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street (01865 261 384). Tonight, 8pm; £8.

REIGATE
RSM International Youth Orchestra/Olive
Featuring Vaughan Williams's *Sea Symphony* and Holst's *The Planets*.
Priory Park, Bell Street (01737 244 407). Tonight, 7.30pm; £11.

Royal Philharmonie/Simonov
Spectacular series of Russian works by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and others.
Priory Park, Bell Street (01737 244 407). Tomorrow, 5pm; £16 and £17.

WOBBURN
An Evening With Michael Nyman
Featuring many of his music film scores to *The Piano* and *The Draughtsman's Contract*.
Woburn Abbey, (01908 234 466). Tonight, 8pm; £17.50 and £20.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

Save £3 on a family ticket to the Degas exhibition

The Times, in association with the National Gallery, offers you the opportunity to save £3 when booking a £13 family ticket to see *Degas: Beyond Impressionism*. The offer is valid until Wednesday, August 14. This is the first exhibition devoted to Degas's work of the 1890s and 1900s. Around 90 pictures have been borrowed from around the world charting his shift from a wide range of subjects to an almost obsessive preoccupation with certain key themes. The exhibition opens with an overview of the artist's work in the 1880s. Subsequent rooms are based around subtle variations on a pose or composition of the nude, the baller and the ballet dancer. Family tickets to the Degas Exhibition are good value. Two adults and up to four children under 18 can use the ticket, potentially halving the normal admission price.

BOOKING
Present the £3 off voucher below at the exhibition ticket desk in the Sainsbury Wing. A timed ticketing system is in operation. For further information, call the National Gallery on 0171-747 2885.

24 ADVANCED BOOKING
Through First Call 0171-420 0000 who charge a booking fee of £1. Readers must quote the booking reference number TT27 on the voucher and present the voucher when collecting their tickets at the Gallery.



Three dancers in purple skirts (detail)

SAVE DEGAS
beyond Impressionism
Family Ticket
The bearer of this voucher is entitled to a £3 discount when buying a family ticket, normal price £13.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY
Supported by



*** SBC Warburg**
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THE TIMES

GOING OUT

15

The Royal Ballet's Doreen Russell takes flight at Covent Garden as Odette in Anthony Dowell's classic production of *Swan Lake*, first seen in 1987

LONDON

Blitz '96
Established dance festival offering a wide range of open classes and performances. *Festival Hall Foyer and Ballroom Floor*, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Times vary, phone for details; mostly free.

Merton Arts Festival: Mind Your Step
Devised by Akram Khan of the Bengali School of Fine Arts, this dance-theatre performance is based on life in the multi-ethnic community.

Merton Hall, Kingston Road, SW19 (0181-545 4197/0181-540 0362). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5, concs £3.

Merton Arts Festival: A Blaze of World Dance
Local community groups stage a series of performances, followed by South Asian refreshments. *Merton Hall*, Kingston Road, SW19 (0181-545 4197/0181-540 0362).

DANCE

Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £3, concs £1.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LORD OF THE DANCE
The American-Irish tap dancer Michael Flatley first found fame as the star of *Riverdance*. Now he strikes out with his own show that takes the successful formula one step further, by adding a storyline based on ancient Irish folk legends and giving it the full arena-rock treatment (not for nothing is *Lord*

of the Dance co-produced by the rock supremo Harvey Goldsmith). There is no doubt about it, Flatley is a genuine phenomenon — and a superb dancer, too. **DEBRA CRAINE**

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Today, 2.30pm and 7.45pm; £10-£32.50.

Royal Ballet: Swan Lake
Anthony Dowell's classic production first shown in

1987, featuring designs inspired by Fabergé. *Royal Opera House*, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Today, 2pm and 7pm; £2-£58.50.

REGIONAL

CAMBRIDGE
The Chalmerses
The all-girl team drool over the modern motor car, dressing up for the occasion in a range of fantastic costumes. *The Junction*, Clifton Road (01223 412 600/511 511). Tonight, 8pm in the car park; £8.

COMING SOON

LONDON
July 30-August 2
Mr Worldly Wise
Twyla Tharp's full-length work returns for three performances only at the Royal Opera House. Box office: 0171-304 4000.

From August 28
Blinded by the Sun
A new play by Stephen Poliakoff, starring Frances de la Tour and Graham Crowden, at the Cottesloe Theatre (0171-928 2252).

Aug 29-Sep 3
Marianne Faithfull
An evening of cabaret at

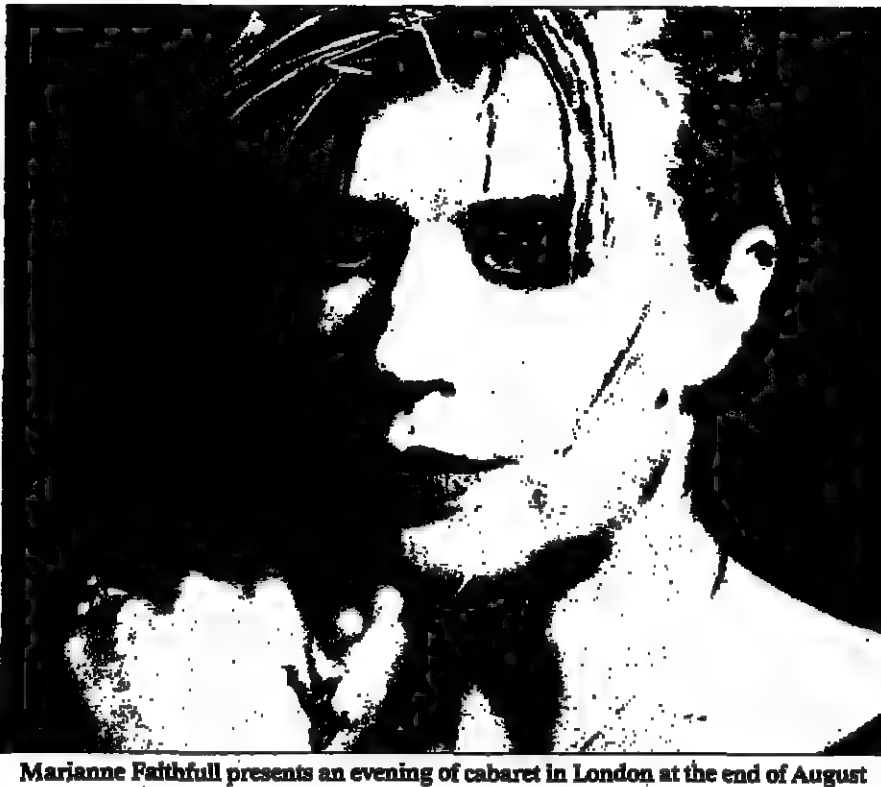
London's Almeida Theatre (box office 0171-359 4404), then Cambridge, Birmingham and Croydon.

September 5-21
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Adrian Noble's acclaimed production returns to the Barbican prior to a national tour. Box office: 0171-638 8891.

REGIONAL
CHICHESTER
July 31-Aug 17
Hedda Gabler
With Harriet Walter, Roy Marsden, Phyllida Law

and David Threlfall at the Minerva Theatre. Box office: 01243-781312.

EDINBURGH
Aug 7-31
Festival Fringe Comedy
Main venues to head for are the Assembly Rooms (0131-226 2428), the Pleasance (0131-556 6550) and the Gilded Balloon (0131-226 2153). Among the stars appearing are Greg Proops, Graham Norton, Jenny Eclair, Jeff Green, John Hegley, Lee and Herring, Phil Kay, Sandi Toksvig and Rhona Cameron.



Marianne Faithfull presents an evening of cabaret in London at the end of August

RELIGION

LONDON
Enjoy the wonderful acoustics of Hawksmoor's St George's church in Bloomsbury at one of the last of their series of summer concerts, to be followed at 6.30pm by evensong. Masayuki Taniyama, the Japanese pianist who was, in 1994, the first prize winner in the Takarazuka Vega annual competition in Osaka and had his first piano lesson aged five in London, will play Brahms's *Rhapsodie*, Schubert's *Sonata in C Minor* and Chopin's *Nocturne*, as well as three Chopin studies. *St George's Bloomsbury*, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1 (0171-405 3044). Tomorrow, 5.20pm; free.

REGIONAL

NEWCASTLE
A summer prayer festival, aimed especially at young people. *St John Vianney Roman Catholic Church*, West Denon, Newcastle (01323 832 112). Today and tomorrow; contact: Fr Wayne Roxburgh.

OPERA

LONDON
Don Giovanni
The European Chamber Opera stages Mozart's dark-edged comedy. *Holland Park Theatre*, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-602 7856).

Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £20, concs £14.50.

La Bohème
Mid-Wales Opera performs Puccini's popular opera. *Marble Hill House*, Richmond Road, Twickenham (0171-413 1443). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £15, concs £12.

REGIONAL

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LULU
Berg's scintillating study of the destructive potential of unbridled sexuality (OK, it can destroy us if we want it to, but a cold shower can work wonders) receives an appropriately steamy musical performance from the London Philharmonic under Andrew Davis. Some may find Graham Vick's staging on the cool side, but the cast — Christine Schäfer, Norman Bailey, David Kuebler and Kathryn Harries among them — is superb.

RODNEY MILNES
Glyndebourne, near Lewes, East Sussex (01273 813 813). Tonight, 5pm; £10-£110.

Also at Glyndebourne
Arabella
Diedrich Bernet conducts Strauss's and Hofmannsthal's final collaboration in a revival of John Cox's production. *Glyndebourne Opera House*, (01273 813 813). Tomorrow, 5.15pm; £10-£110. *Yevgeny Onyegin*

Tchaikovsky's classic opera, staged by Graham Vick and revived by Glyndebourne. Gennadi Rozdestvensky conducts. *Glyndebourne Opera House*, (01273 813 813). Tomorrow, 4.10pm; £10-£110.



Christine Schäfer as Lulu

CONGLETON
Madame Butterfly
Clonier Opera Farm performs Puccini's classic. *Clonier Opera Farm*, (01260 224514). Tonight, 7pm; £25 and £28.

COMEDY

LONDON
Comedy Store: Best in Stand-Up
With Jeff Green, Mandy Knight, Tim Vine and Sean Lock. Tim Clark MCs. *Comedy Store*, Oxendon Street, SW1

(01426 914 433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight; £10. **Comedy Store Players**
Television celebrity line-up with Josie Lawrence, Paul Merton and Les Simpson, to name drop a few. *Comedy Store*, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914 433). Tonight, 8pm; £10.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

EDINBURGH PRELIMINARS
The London Fringe is teeming with stand-ups flexing their muscles before the Edinburgh Festival. The key venues are the Pleasance, with the Raging Urban Warrior Alan Parker tonight at 8.30pm; the Hen and Chickens with Irish yarn-spinner Owen O'Neill tonight at 9.30pm; and Battersea Arts Centre crumming in the mega-brash Jenny Eclair (midweek), boyishly shambolic Tim Vine and zillions more. **KATE BASSETT**

Hen and Chickens
109 St Paul's Road, N1 (0171-704 2001). *The Pleasance*, London, Carpenters Mews, North Road, N7 (0171-609 1800). *Battersea Arts Centre*, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223).

Hampstead Clinic Camp
Rambling and the World of Beige
With Lenny Beige and Graham Norton. *Hampstead Clinic at G.E. Aldwinkles*, Corner Fleet Road and Pond Street, NW3 (0171-485 2112). Tonight, 9pm; £4.

Jongleurs Camden
Phil Davey, Matt Welcome and Fred MacAuley. Mickey Hutton MCs. *Jongleurs Comedy Camden Lock*, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Tonight, 7.15pm and 11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

Jo Brand
More from the celebrity takehome. *Purcell Room*, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm and 10.15pm; £9.50.

Screaming Blue Murder
Ben Norris MCs for Phil Jupitus playing an extended set, plus Paul Tomkinson. *Battersea Arts Centre*, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 10.15pm; £6, concs £5.

Tur 'n' Shive
New Sunday night, this week featuring Martin Pickles and Kat Nilson. *Tur and Shive*, Upper Street, N1 (0171-359 7719). Tomorrow, 8.45pm; £4, concs £3.

Up the Creek
Rumours of a special guest, alongside Otis Cannelloni, Paul Tomkinson and the Man with the Beard (tonight, 9pm; £12, concs £8). Tomorrow, the lineup includes Al Murray, Malcolm Hardee, Boothby Graffoe and the Bastard Son of Tommy Cooper (9pm; £6, concs £4). *Up the Creek*, Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858 4581).

REGIONAL

BRIGHTON
Terry Garaghan Sings
Brighton, Hove and Surrounding Areas
Extra show date. *Concorde*, Madeira Drive (01273 506460). Tonight, 8pm; £7, concs £6.

CHESTER
Alexander's Comedy Club
With hero of all men, Mr Smith. *Alexander's Jazz Cafe Bar*, Rufus Court (01244 340 005/313 400). Tonight, 8.30pm; £5.

EDINBURGH
The Stand at Moscow
With Jane Mackay, Mark Dolan and Elvis McGinty. *The Moscow Bar*, 6 South St David Street (0131-556 6375). Tonight, 9pm; £5, concs £4.

MANCHESTER
Frog and Bucket Comedy
Martin Bigg, Roger Monkhouse and Gordon Southern. *The Frog and Bucket Comedy Club and Theatre*, Oldham Street (0161-236 9805). Tonight, 8.30pm; £4, concs £3.

NOTTINGHAM
Just the Tonic
Edinburgh preview slot featuring Phil Jupitus. *Old Vic*, Fletchergate (0115 953 7753). Tomorrow, 9pm; £5, concs £4.

THEATRE

LONDON
The Aspern Papers
Michael Redgrave's slightly old-fashioned version of the Henry James tale of literary skulduggery. With Hannah Gordon, Daniel J. Travanti, Moira Lister. *Wyndhams*, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Today, 5pm and 8.15pm.

CRITIC'S CHOICE
THE LIGHTS
Howard Korder's brilliant if sobering comedy is the last at the Royal Court before redevelopment begins and the company moves temporarily to the West End. That gives Ian Rickson's production a special edge, for it occurs in an already topsy-turvy theatre, with actors playing from ramshackle-looking balconies to an audience sitting where the stage once was. Just to add to the symbolism, the play involves the disintegration of a New York in which mad bag-ladies beg for the money to fly to Venus, thugs menace anyone brave enough to look in their vague direction, and the protagonists, a fragile shopgirl and her cowed boyfriend, end up half-dead by the intensity of it all.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3.30pm.



Chichester: Leo McKern

Paint Your Wagon
First London revival of the Lerner and Loewe musical since 1953. Tony Selby in the Lee Marvin role, so how will he sing *Wandrin' Star*? Ian Talbot directs. *Open Air*, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm. In rep.

The Yellow Wallpaper
Patricia Boyer and Tobias Burns in a stage adaptation of this remarkable 1890 novel by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, tracing a wife's journey into madness. Directed by Judith Roberts. *New End*, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Tonight, 8pm; mat tomorrow, 4pm.

REGIONAL

BRIGHTON
Fools Rush In
Dennis Waterman, Gerald Harper and Moray Watson star with master comedian

Eric Sykes in Francis Veber's hilarious comedy. Adapted and directed by Ray Cooney. *Theatre Royal*, New Road (01273 328 488). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 4pm.

CHICHESTER
When We Are Married
Dawn French, Leo McKern, Dora Bryan, Shirley Anne Field, Alison Steadman head a splendid cast for Priestley's evergreen social comedy. *Festival*, Oaklands Park (01243 781 312). In preview; tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

FAIRS SHOWS

LONDON
Fantasm 1996
Film fest celebrating the genre of science fiction and fantasy. *National Film Theatre*, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232). Today, ends tomorrow, times vary; phone for details.

Tina Food Festival
Demonstrations and stalls selling traditional foods. *Battersea Park*, Bandstand area, SW11 (0171-352 7534). Tomorrow, 10am-4pm; free.

REGIONAL
BRIDESWELL
Celtic Festival
Music and dance workshops, a pageant, historical talks, plus a bonfire party. *O'Connell's and various venues* (00353 902 88140). Today, workshops 10am-12.30pm, 1.30-4pm, bonfire 9pm; tomorrow, pageant 1pm; workshops £3-£5, other events free but donations appreciated.

CARDIFF
Cardiff Summer Festival '96
Large-scale entertainment with music, comedy, circus acts, a carnival and street performers. *Cardiff Summer Festival*, (01222 871 922). Today, tomorrow, times vary; phone for details.

GALWAY
Galway Arts Festival
Last weekend to visit the large-scale arts festival this weekend, including the Big Day Out tomorrow, and featuring Neneh Cherry and Radiohead. *Various venues*, (00353 915 83800/561516). Today, tomorrow, 11am-late; Big Day Out: doors open tomorrow, 1.30pm; free daytime events; Big Day Out: £20, £18 concs.

LIVERPOOL
Summer in the City '96
Summer sounds, poetry, stalls and games for the family. *Bluecoat Arts Centre*, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane (0151-709 5297). Today, tomorrow, times vary; phone for details.

LOUTH
Louth Music Festival
Including live musicians, performers and exhibitions. *Louth Music Festival*, various venues (01507 609 289). Ends today, phone for details.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES
Stockton Riverside International Festival
Pyrotechnics and gothic acrobatics in *Sacred of Horrors* and bigtop comedy with Fred MacAuley. *Various venues* (01642 611 625). Today, tomorrow, 5pm-late; prices vary, phone for details.

Ruth Gledhill hears the Dalai Lama speak on the four noble truths

The attraction of Buddhism



AS I SAT among red, white and saffron-robed monks at the Barbican Centre to hear the Dalai Lama speak on the four noble truths of Buddhism, the talk around me was faintly disappointing. I could hear no discussion along the lines of "I've really been helped here on the path to enlightenment," or "at last I feel I understand why there is suffering in the world". Instead, it was: "Look, there's John Cleese at the front," or, "was that Joanna Lumley in that hat and dark glasses?"

To be fair, such talk did not emanate from the monks, who seemed dazed to be in the presence of the living reincarnation of Chenrezig, the Buddha of Compassion, talking for the first time in the West on the spiritual principles of the heart of Buddhism. One monk confessed to me he felt so overwhelmed he could recall almost nothing of what he had heard. The celebrity spotters were rather the long-haired, thirty-something men and women who looked as though they had been born too late to enjoy the 1960s and had been trying to make up for it ever since. My own generation, in fact. Most eastern religions, including Orthodox Christianity, are enjoying a resurgence in the West, but Buddhism is proving the most popular. Hundreds of young British adults, disillusioned with what is on offer in the established churches, are seeking serenity in the more overtly mystical and meditational approach of Buddhism. His Holiness

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, was in Britain this month at the invitation of the Network of Buddhist Organisations, founded in 1993 and already comprising 40 groups of Buddhists from different traditions.

The Dalai Lama, calm, untroubled and smiling, sat cross-legged on a simple wooden armchair beneath a cloth drape, or *tangka*, which depicted Buddha, the Indian prince born in the sixth century BC, who, after nearly starving himself to death, rejected extreme asceticism and finally achieved enlightenment by meditating.

I was there for the last of four sessions

AT YOUR SERVICE

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SPEAKER: the Dalai Lama.

ARCHITECTURE: Europe's biggest arts centre, opened in 1983. This visit to the Barbican was the only time I have not been made miserable by static electric shocks from the carpet. It must have been something to do with the karma.

TALKS: mystifying and mystical. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: food and drinks on sale at the Barbican, plus stands selling and giving away Buddhist souvenirs, information about the Dalai Lama's homeland, Tibet, and details of the burgeoning numbers of Buddhist organisations in Britain. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: enlightening. ★★★★★

spread over two days. A sell-out for weeks before, it was beamed live to the Heaven nightclub at Charing Cross. Before the talk he answered questions. "How can we help sceptical, scientific friends to benefit from dharma (Buddhist teaching)?" Speaking through an interpreter, he said: "The best thing for individuals approaching Buddhism is for them to adapt what is most suitable and beneficial to have, and to leave the rest." "Take what you want and leave the rest. I couldn't imagine a bishop saying this. I began to understand the attraction of Buddhism as opposed to Christianity."

The four noble truths are that suffering is universal, that it is caused by misplaced cravings and values, that it is possible for suffering to cease and that there is a solution. He talked about the importance of emptiness. An understanding of emptiness would liberate an individual from any feeling of nihilism, he said. The aim of all Buddhists must be to empty themselves of greed and grasping desire, the root of all suffering. After the talk there was an "initiation", or blessing. Everyone read a prayer translated from Tibetan which ended: "As long as space endures, and as long as sentient beings remain, may I, too, abide, to dispel the miseries of the world." Cups of "blessed" water were passed round "to symbolically cleanse the mind" and we returned to the material world, richer by far, but not as our friends might understand it.

● *The Network of Buddhist Organisations*, The Old Courthouse, 43 Renshaw Road, London SE11 4NA. (0171-582 5797).

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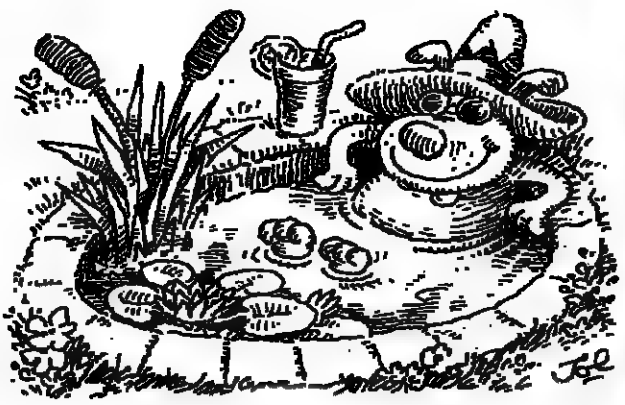
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A Vet Writes...

Hot dogs don't relish the sun



Summer sunshine is wonderful, although we are told to take it in small doses and protect ourselves with sun creams. I don't know how W.G. Grace survived in the days when white facial war-paint was not part of cricketing dress. But consider the effect on your pet.

Dogs can die in parked cars when the air temperature rises above 37°C. Dogs don't perspire much. They sweat between their toes and from the tip of the tongue, but most canine temperature regulation involves panting — the blowing out of hot air and the inhalation of cooler air.

Normal body temperature is 38.5°C and, when exhaled air is replaced by "fresh" air that is only a degree or so cooler, the dog starts to overheat. When his body temperature reaches 40°C he is in trouble. At 43°C he is dead — cooked alive. This is an emotive phrase but accurate.

I'll never forget a post mortem examination which I carried out on a boxer dog shortly after he was pulled out of a parked car. His temperature was so high that it pushed the mercury off the top of the thermometer — 44°C plus. The inside of his abdomen was hotter than I could bear to touch with a rubber-gloved hand. This shouldn't happen to any dog. Leave him at home when there's a heatwave. Ignore his reproachful looks. He'll give you an ecstatic

welcome when you return, which is better than coming home with a corpse.

First aid for heat stroke must be immediate. Get the dog's temperature down by turning a hosepipe on him, or putting him in a pond, stream or horse trough. (Head above water, of course.) And then take him to the vet.

Metal cages for hamsters and other furry pets become ovens if they are left on a window ledge in the sun. As with so many other things in this life, position is everything. All cages — for a mouse, hamster, mynah bird or whatever — should be in the shade.

White skins exposed to bright light can become acutely inflamed. It's called photosensitisation. White-eared cats can suffer, so make sure that you use sun creams to protect them.

A few black and white — or red and white — cattle develop a severe reaction on their unpigmented areas. Covering a cow would use up several gallons of sun cream, so farmers make sure that susceptible cattle stay out of the midday sun.

Pigs living out of doors may suffer from sunburn, but if they are given a wet hole to wallow in, the subsequent thick coating of mud is better than any manmade cream.

JAMES ALLCOCK



Michelle and Brook Klepper with Pongo, father to 13 of the family's 18 rats, and two of his relatives. The rodents get lonely if left alone for long

He's a rat but I love him

Michelle Klepper, reluctant rodent owner, says these affectionate creatures are better company than men

It is April 21, 1995: my son Brook's eighth birthday. He wants a snake or a rodent. I plump for the latter as the lesser of two evils.

Mr Pet Shop Owner: "Yes... a rat would be a good choice... doesn't smell" (Umm?) "... more intelligent than cats, dogs, horses... doesn't bite" (I've heard that one before) "... lives longer than hamsters, mice" (not

necessarily a plus). I translate his words to mean he has an abundance of the furry fiends and is selling them off at knock-down prices — only £3. I eye their tails and shudder; the fabled farmer's wife growing in my esteem. Brook

chooses a startled-looking brown and white hooded rat which he duly names Splinter (after a Ninja rat in *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*, of course). I wonder at the sense of being Ninja while possessing teeth as sharp as razors, but I don't put this to Brook.

In the pet shop I take a sneak preview of a book called *Rats* by Susan Fox (T. F. H. Publications, £5.95). One housing suggestion is a glass tank with a top made from thick wire mesh, secured to a wooden frame. We head home, via the DIY store with a 3ft fish tank and other accessories for a happy rat, such as wooden ladders, swing ropes and tasty treats. Now I understand why rats only cost £3 — the whole bill tops £50.

I read the book. It was to be my downfall: if only it had been the one written by James Herbert, things might have been different. Rats, it seems, get lonely if left alone for long periods. I enter my son's room while he's at school and stare at Splinter. Splinter stares back. He doesn't look quite so hideous, at least not when I can't see his tail.

April 23, 1995: back to the pet shop. A friend for Splinter, another male named Pongo, joins the household. Family bliss.

June 2: Splinter is unwell. I wonder if there has been a mistake, his bits look different to Pongo's. "No," the vet reassures me, "Splinter is male but his sexual organs are deformed — a bit like a eunuch." Vet gives Splinter an

injection for bronchitis. Next day Splinter gives birth to 13 babies. I change our vet. Pongo and Splinter have to part. Splinter rears the babies (they're called kittens). Pongo is lonely. When Brook is at school I take pity and sit him on my shoulder, where he grunts sweet nothings into my ear. The washing-up becomes less boring somehow.

The babies grow. Pongo stays on my shoulder. People get a shock when I answer the door. On warm days he has a run in a secluded park, if he is frightened he bounds back to me and runs straight up my body. A love affair has begun. A year on we have 18 rats. You can't bond the same as with one or two but they all like a rub around the ears and will groom your hands as they groom each other, cleaning under your finger nails with their teeth. We have never been bitten. The only drawback is that the males develop a pungent scent.

Besides mixed cereal, they need to have some salad a couple of times a week and tidbits from our plates are also appreciated — preferably unsalted. They love a sweet treat (the girls, especially) but these should be given sparingly because they are, of course, bad for teeth and rats can become addicted to sugar.

If you give them your time rats have good memories and can be given puzzles and mazes to complete. They can also be taught symbols and colours. For example, my "girls" have eaten an escape route from the wooden hut-like home that I was trying out. I know they come and go freely from the hut but when I let the "boys" out (on alternate days) I make sure the hole is secured. The girls try to hide the hole from me with toys, hair-brushes and their bodies, but only when it's not their turn for an outing.

These creatures are intelligent, affectionate, loyal and lively companions and far removed from the aggressive rats responsible for the Black Death in the early 14th century. I'm sorry I ever doubted my Mr Pet Shop Owner. If only I could find a human partner with all these qualities.

RAT FACTS

■ The National Fancy Rat Society offers advice on keeping rats. Send an SAE to the NFRS at 4 Mayfair Court, Barn Hall Avenue, Colchester, Essex.

■ Rats cost between £2 and £8. To find breeders write, with an SAE, to the NFRS, Kitten Register, 5 Dorville Road, London SE12 8ED.

■ Well's disease can be caught from wild rats, however, is minimal.

■ Make sure wiring is well covered as rats have a tendency to chew computer and telephone wires, which could prove expensive.

Feather Report

Notes of summer in the woods

IT IS VERY quiet in the woods on a hot July day. One day last week, I was walking along a sunny ride past flowering brambles, and I could hear nothing but a few coal tits making sharp calls in the shady hornbeams and firs around me. A young green woodpecker flew up and dipped along the ride ahead of me, then turned into the trees, and a moment later another followed it. They had probably been sunbathing together, and I could tell that they were young birds because they had green backs, not the brilliant gold blob of their parents'. They kept on flying in and out of the trees ahead of me after that, but were quite silent.

AFTER A WHILE a chiff-chaff started singing, and suddenly I heard a typical July sound — the piping of a family of bullfinches. The parents have a soft piping note, while the young birds have a louder, creakier one. The wood fell silent again. But there was something else — the butterflies. The brambles were alive with them. Dark brown ringlets were flitting restlessly over the bushes and the grass. Gatekeepers, with their brown-framed orange wings, were feeding on the flowers, and a ragged-looking comma butterfly settled among them.

But I was looking out for a rarer species that I knew was found in this wood — a white admiral. Suddenly there was a glint of silver in the air and one shot by me, then swooped up into the shadow of the trees. I waited patiently.

AT LAST I saw that flicker of silver just above the brambles — and a white admiral landed on a flower. I could see the silver-white bar on the large chocolate wings, and, as it closed them, the cream and orange undersides. Then I heard the bullfinches again, and saw the red-breasted male with three of his brown young. I think piping bullfinches and the white admiral will be inseparable in my memory from now on.

DERWENT MAY

■ What's about Birders — Watch for hobbles as they search for food for the young. Twickers — broad-billed sandpiper at Cley, Norfolk; laughing gull at Feltar, Shetland; purple heron at Minsmere, Suffolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222 (40p a min cheap rate, 50p at other times).



Bullfinches are a typical sound on hot July days

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Cruising: through Brazilian rainforests on a floating palace and the QE2 from Cape Town to New York

Gone with the wind up the Amazon

I met a wise old man as I sailed along the Amazon. He claimed that a faultless ship had not yet been built. But he then pointed out that his statement was greatly flawed as we both appeared to be sailing in one. It was the *MY Silver Wind* — a simple little floating palace out of Monte Carlo which accommodates 296 guests and 196 crew to tend to their every need.

The ship, charming though she is, paled into insignificance for the first few days as the brain attempted to adjust to the sights which confronted it. It was not the Opera House itself — the Teatro Amazonas — at Manaus that was fantastic, rather its setting in a grubby industrial town in the rainforest 2,000 miles up the Amazon.

You wonder what imagination, force of will, *folie de grandeur* and wealth caused this piece of 19th century Italy, with its marbled interior and Venetian chandeliers, to be built in the middle of nowhere 100 years ago this year.

But it is at the docks that Manaus comes into its own — these are the huge floating variety built to cope with fluctuations of the water level and to accommodate rowing boats as easily as cruisers. The adjective terming must have been invented for these boats, ships, lorries, people, stalls, bars, cafés, hoodlums, babies and dogs — they are all here.

In this heightened state of unreality you board the ship to head upstream for Anavilhanas, an archipelago of more than 400 islands just 26 nautical miles away. The sense of the fantastic continues the following morning when you step onto your veranda and find yourself in the middle of a vast, still, black sea rather than the fast-flowing river from the night before. But you are still on a river, the huge Rio Negro (its liquorice tone comes from the iron content of the soil).

Later you transfer to a much smaller boat for a foray along some of the river's tributaries. The reward is sightings of eagles, hawks, vultures galore, herons with blue beaks and huge iridescent butterflies the size of saucers and the back end of an alligator diving for cover.

In the evening a beach barbecue has been prepared just a tender ride away. When you step off the tender



SILVER WIND FACT FILE

- The *Silver Wind* and its sister ship the *Silver Cloud* sail the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Caribbean, China, Indonesia, southeast Asia, South America, around Britain, Africa and the Orinoco as well as the Amazon.
- Prices from £2,710 for a seven-day Mediterranean cruise. The Amazon cruise costs from £3,745 including flights, transfers, food and drinks and one excursion.
- The Silverseas Programme is available from leading travel agents or direct from Silverseas 71/79 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3HU (0171-728 1929).

on to the sand to the rhythms of a samba band, you realise that the crew has transferred an entire dining room to the beach. Here are tables covered with white linen and napkins. The reflection of the flickering candles is caught in the fine china, silver and crystal.

The evening ends with a canoe ride along more tributaries surrounded by the fierce night sounds of the forest. Every so often a hapless cayman would be stupefied by the boatman's torch, its starting, crimson eyes giving the game away. From here we sailed down the river through forests, past tiny hamlets of

houses on stilts cheek by jowl with satellite dishes, alongside decaying towns and thriving cities, across the equator and through water that changes from black to brown to green to blue.

Each day we dock at places like Parintins — a small town on the southern shore — another day it is Santarém, which shot to fame in the Twenties when Henry Ford decided to create a modern city, Fordlandia. This failed spectacularly and the place reverted to old-style Portuguese with its crumbling cathedral and huge market squares. Then we came to the Breves Narrows — a

passage through almost 1,000 islands with equatorial forest on both banks, so close in parts that you could almost reach out and touch it.

As the ship approached each village, men, women and children jumped into small canoes and paddled furiously alongside calling and ululating to the passengers. The crew collected unwanted clothing from passengers which along with food was tied into plastic sacks and thrown off the ship for the followers. In the Breves we found the scenery we had expected from the

Amazon basin and for the best part of the day we journeyed through pure Mission territory before hitting the open sea and heading north to the painted beauty of Devil's Island and home via Barbados.

All the time the *Silver Wind* cosseted its charges with exquisite food, delicious wines, cocktail parties, lectures, bridge visits, wine-tastings, exercise classes and nightly entertainment.

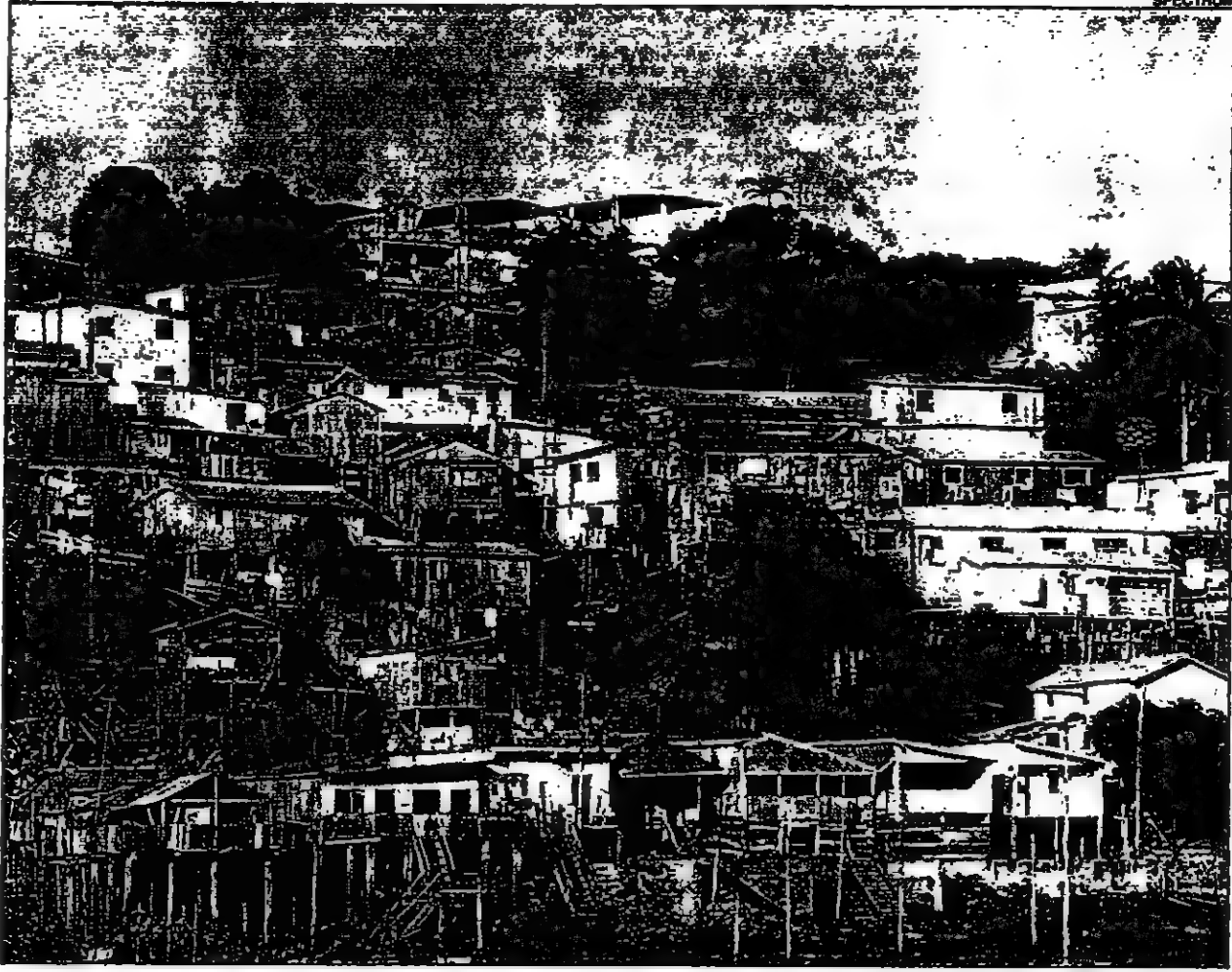
The ship's theme is unashamed luxury. And, as in most areas of life, the atmosphere emanates from its leader — in this case Captain Antonio Di Palma, an Italian

charmer whose passion for speed was invaluable on our last night on board. A passenger suffered a heart attack and, as if Pegasus had been transmogrified into a sailor, Di Palma went into action. The ship hardly touched the waves as we docked in Barbados four hours early.

By the way my wise old friend was right. The ship has yet to be built that you cannot fault. The *Silver Wind* has two failings — you have to leave it, and the coffee is lousy.

JO FOLEY

● The author was a guest of Silverseas.



On the waterfront: houses on stilts on the banks of the Rio Negro at Manaus, which has its own Italian opera house

TRAVEL DIRECTORY



TANZANIA
The adventure a gap-year student worker will never forget
PAGE 18



FRANCE
Taking a breather in the garlic capital of Gascony
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WALES
A taste of Brecon, Welsh whisky and all that jazz
PAGE 21



Rolling into Rio with the super-rich

Only a handful of ports around the world, when seen from the sea, are so spectacular that they take your breath away. A cruise from Cape Town to Rio de Janeiro and on to New York, three of the most exciting examples of such places, promised to be a memorable experience.



I flew to Cape Town to meet the ship, and I can only quote Sir Francis Drake's reaction to this tip of the Atlantic continent. "It is the fairest Cape in all the circumference of the earth," he said.

Standing on the cliffs at Cape Point, the Indian Ocean on my left, the Atlantic on my right, and realising, as I looked south, that there was nothing land between me and the South Pole except sea and solid ice, was an ethereal experience. In the waters below, seals and penguins shared a playground.

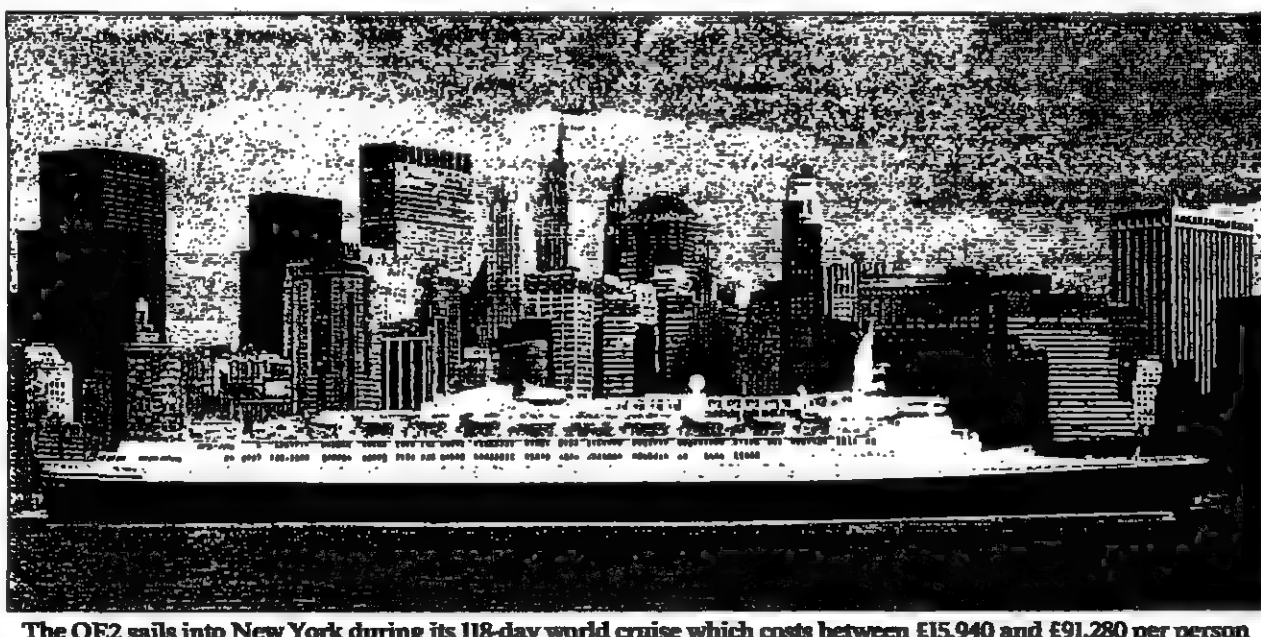
When the QE2 arrived on schedule, it had been on its world cruise from Southampton for three months — America, the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal to Honolulu, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore and India before reaching the East African coast and heading down to Cape Town. Four hundred of the more than 1,000 passengers started the cruise in Southampton or New York but others, like me, joined the ship for just part of it.

During my short stay in Cape Town I took the cable car

ride to the top of Table Mountain for the marvellous panoramic views. But the best view is not from the mountain, it is of the mountain. I had that from the stern as we set sail across the south Atlantic on the 3,000-mile leg to Rio de Janeiro. The vast, flat top of Table Mountain dominates Cape Town and when cloud drapes the summit it seems to cascade down the mountain like cream over a pudding. It is an unforgettable sight from a mile out to sea.

Cruising on the QE2 is total self-indulgence. Trouble starts at dawn when the Pavilion bar at the stern serves croissants and Danish pastries with coffee. After a gentle stroll round the deck, it is time for a formal breakfast in the restaurant or — my preference — self service in the Lido, though there is a wimp's corner for fresh fruit and muesli.

It seems only reasonable to continue the day in the same style. Coffee and biscuits for eleven, four-course lunch, sandwiches and cakes at tea-time and five courses at dinner when I always began with



The QE2 sails into New York during its 118-day world cruise which costs between £15,940 and £91,280 per person

caviar — the kitchens seemed to have an endless supply.

Somewhere between meals there are lectures such as *Do Animals Think?*, *The War of the Waleuses* — the latest on Princess Di, and intriguingly, *Sex, Sensuality and Fat Ladies*. There is dancing and the casino is always busy. Many passengers are regulars but even so, it was intriguing to meet a super-rich businessman who had paid £13 million for three suites and an

office for four months every year until the millennium.

Rio appeared over the horizon after five days at sea. At a distance, Copacabana and Ipanema beaches were stunning, as was the statue Christ the Redeemer, arms outstretched on Corcovado Peak. Sadly, it is somewhat of an illusion. Close up, Rio is dirty, sleazy and dangerous. Copacabana beach is littered with drug users' needles and there is a heavy police presence.

Ipanema beach is split into areas for homosexuals, prostitutes, young girls, surfers and drug users. There is even a recognised stretch for families.

The graffiti over public buildings, including churches, is deeply depressing and the drive through filthy backstreets to the railway taking you up Corcovado even more so. Given the ship's warnings about the dangers of Rio, many passengers, including me, wondered why the QE2

spent nearly two days there. I was relieved to be at sea again, heading north to Salvador and Barbados and the delightful St Thomas where I boarded a seaplane for a spectacular 40-minute overview of the British and American Virgin Islands. As I flew over Richard Branson's Necker Island I was told that I could rent it for £10,000 a day, as long as I took it for a minimum ten days. Barbra Streisand's Greater St James seemed almost affordable at £3,300 a day.

Finally New York and a pale sun glinting in a million Manhattan windows. Familiarity never dims what, for me, is the world's most exciting port approach — sailing past the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River, past the World Trade Centre and the grandeur of the Empire State Building beyond it.

I left the QE2 in Manhattan. An arrival a week later in dear old Southampton would have been an anti-climax.

JOHN PARRY

● The author was on the QE2 as a guest lecturer of Canard.

QE2 FACT FILE

- The 1996-97 World Cruise of the QE2 sails from Southampton for New York on December 15 and returns 118 days later on April 11. Costs range from £15,940 for an inside cabin to a luxury penthouse with a balcony at £91,280 per person. There are special prices for connecting cabins to create larger suites. If you pay in full by August 15, there is a 20 per cent discount.
- Sections of the world cruise are available at a range of prices. Eleven nights from Halifax to Southampton costs from £1,995 to £10,515, depending on accommodation. Economy-class air fares to point of embarkation are included.
- Prices include all on-board food and entertainment, including lectures and computer training. It does not include drinks or tips.

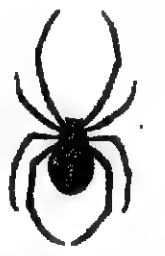
- Dress is casual, but for most nights at sea evening dress is preferred in the restaurants; most passengers seem to enjoy dressing up for dinner. On other evenings, jackets and ties for men and cocktail dresses for women are requested.
- There is no luggage restriction on board (you can even take your Rolls-Royce with you, if you get an extra cabin for the chauffeur), but if you are flying to join a section of the cruise there are the usual weight limits for aircraft.
- Ship currency is US dollars but most passengers sign for everything and settle their bill by credit card.
- For information and reservations call 01703 716605 or talk to your local ABTA travel agent.



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France: a food pilgrimage to Gascony; plus, rural landscapes through the eyes of Vincent van Gogh

If garlic be the food of good health—as the experts assure us it is—you should visit St Clair in southwest France. There is some argument as to whether this medieval hillside town is really the garlic capital of Gascony, which the locals like to claim, but no one disputes the awesome production of the plant from the surrounding farms or its prominence in every aspect of regional cuisine.

The time to be in St Clair is the last week in August when they hold the garlic festival. It is then that the Place de la Mairie, a splendid 600-year-old timber-covered market square, is transformed into a vast banqueting hall. About 1,000 diners scramble for seats at long trestle tables. Tourists are welcome but should arrive early. Gascon hospitality does not extend to courteously holding back from securing the best places.

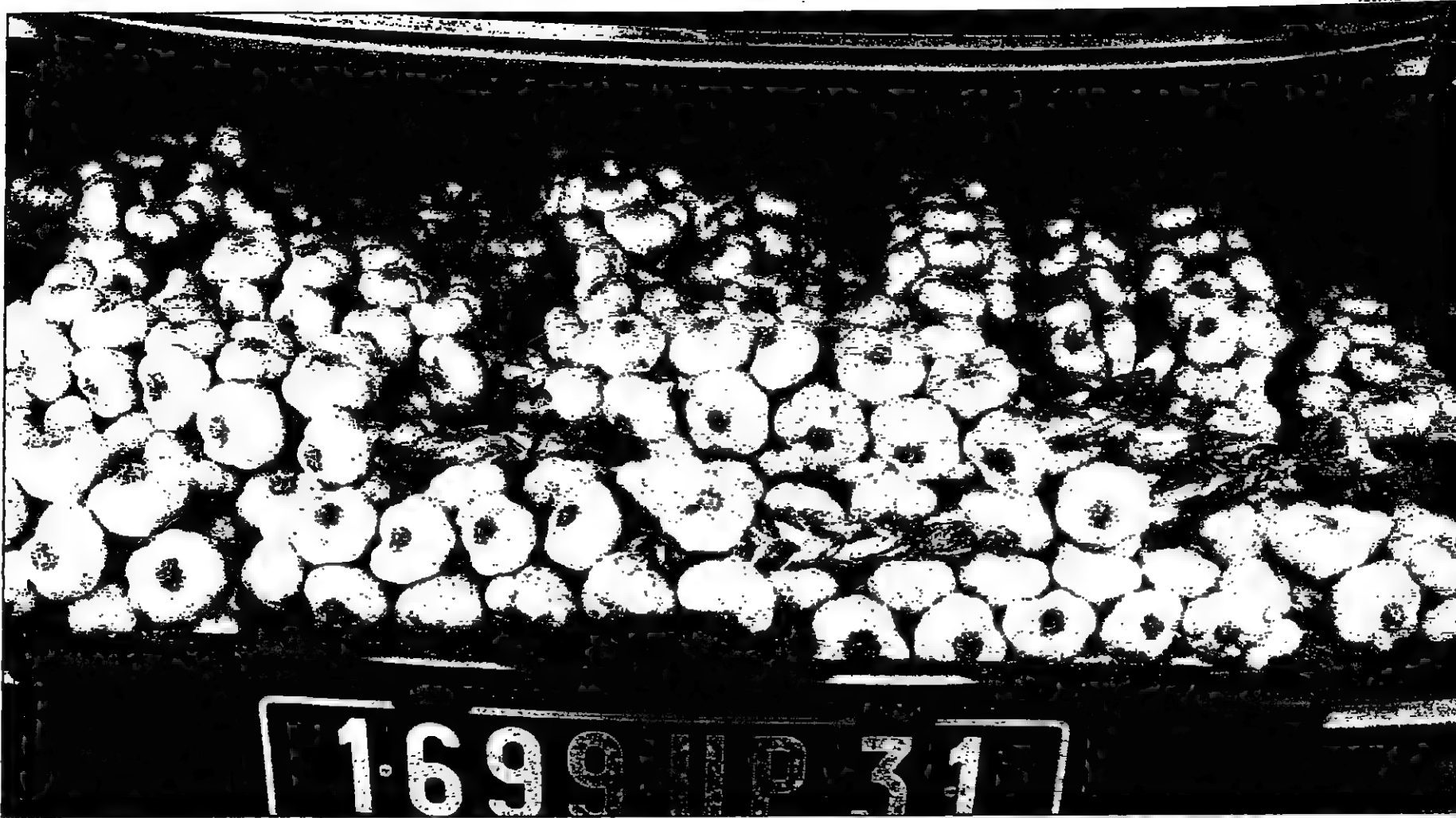
On one side of the square, the chefs labour over room-sized grills laid across hot ashes. Such is the heat that the men who make the fires wear heavy gloves and face visors, for all the world like workers in a steel foundry.

The opening treat everyone is waiting for is *moules à la plaque*, mussels and chopped garlic soaked in gallons of rough white wine. Have no inhibitions about accepting second helpings, or third or fourth. This is a banquet in itself. By now the smell and taste of garlic is all-pervading, a constant reminder of the therapeutic qualities of this extraordinary clove, which is said to lower cholesterol and blood pressure and thus reduce the risk of heart disease.

Looking at some of the ancients who are gorging themselves with all the relish of underfed teenagers, it is not hard to believe the fuller wisdom of those who favour garlic with everything, including breakfast, to ensure a long and happy life.

The mussels are followed by tuna grilled on a bed of garlic, *salade aux croustons aillés* and ice-cream. Nobody seems to know if *la glace* is garlic flavoured. No matter; it can hardly make any difference to the flavour of the feast, though it should be said that the more garlic

Just don't hold your breath



Market forces: whether St Clair really is the garlic capital of the region, as the local farmers claim, the bulbs grows in awesome quantities on the surrounding hillsides

you eat, the less you smell of it—to others or on others.

They have been growing garlic at St Clair since the days when, like much of the rest of Gascony, it owed allegiance to the English crown. That was in the 13th century, a period of commercial expansion made evident by the rash of *bastides* (from the old

French *bastida*, to build). A *bastide* was a new town based on a grid pattern of streets, with a central square surrounded by arcades. It sounds grander than it is. All that happened was that the streets were marked out by a cord attached to a pole. The idea was to set up a community as a focus for trade.

St Clair was unusual in that its *bastide* was attached to the old town, a whim of the English monarch, Edward I, which had the long-term benefit of creating a meld of planned and unplanned, a historical curiosity of infinite charm that owes its prosperity and resistance to change to the ubiquitous bulb.

Moist, chalky soil with plenty of

rain early in the year and plenty of sun following makes St Clair especially favourable to garlic growing. It is the white garlic, *Pail blanc de Lomagne*, with a head the size of a child's fist, that is chiefly produced here, but *Pail violet* with purple veined heads is also grown. The more expensive variety, *Pail rose de Lautrec*, which keeps longest, is

found more towards the east, around Albi.

Fresh garlic, in bunches of what look like inflated spring onions, appears in the markets as early as June, but the hanging garlic that is as much a kitchen decoration as a culinary delight comes in August and September. The preparation is still largely a family activity with

the old people heavily engaged in the labour-intensive business of peeling off the bulbs' outer skin and binding the tresses to look like the pigtails once favoured by muscular schoolgirls. Waiting for its tritivation, the garlic is stored in the open barns where the wind can dry the skin to papery flakes.

Luxuriating in the afterglow of the festival banquet it is easy to adopt the easy assumption that what is now will for ever be. But the reluctance of young people to work on the farms or at the tedious and messy process of making the garlic presentable for market suggests otherwise. Yet more ominous was the demonstration that disrupted last year's festival when farmers from a neighbouring commune led a protest at the importation of cheap garlic from China.

It is sometimes said that the pronunciation of *all* is like a cry for help. The proud Gascons would deny it, but there is a worry in St Clair that the garlic capital may have to fight harder to hold its title.

BARRY TURNER

St Clair is 70km northwest of Toulouse close to Lacourt and Fleurance. It can be reached by road on the D7, D40 and D953. The sale for garlic traders is on August 8 and the festival, with a gourmet meal and entertainment, is on August 22.

Where to be sure of a room with a view

Should the subject for a painting carry a price even modestly reflecting the value of the work it inspired, the farmer in front of us, twirling the gleaming ploughshare of his John Deere 3650 as he U-turned at the end of a furrow, would have riches beyond any Eurosibid. He could parcel up his field and sell it off in one metre squares to the Japanese.

Vincent van Gogh, two of whose works sold for the highest and second highest sums yet paid for any paintings, stopped where we stood on a hill above Auvers sur Oise, just west of Paris, and, in

his terminal creative frenzy, painted *Champs de Blé*. It is a grain pensive from a nightmare, a shriek of gold under clouds of funeral blue-black, haunted by his baleful rooks.

The apocalyptic detail aside, this is a view that has changed little. The free flow of agriculture has kept the sight lines clear. (Normally at the scheduled Van Gogh painting stops at Auvers you can consult a weather-proof copy of the work in question on a sign, erected at huge expense. But somebody has stolen this one. (You are well advised to carry an illustrated guide.) We walked past the little cemetery

where, among the overbearing and pretentious mausoleums, Vincent and his brother Theo lie under unassuming *ici Repose...* headstones in the ultimate expression of fraternal togetherness. Halfway down the hill the aspect over the valley in *La Pluie* (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) was obscured by a century of trees.

In the village it was pure chance which property Vincent favoured with his brush. La Pichote and La Poplette, two houses behind geraniums at the top of a flight of steps, would command a unique premium in the house market.

if they were selling. No common estate agent photograph for them: the owners need only display a copy of Vincent's *L'Escalier d'Auvers* and name their price. And what council artist, given the job of painting civic buildings, would risk comparison alongside his *La Mairie*, depicted eerily devoid of people on Bastille Day 1890, just ten days before shot Van Gogh himself?

There is no cheap Van Goghery in Auvers. No hotels, no night life. The man, after all, was here for just 70 days. He wasn't one of them then and may still not be. The apocryphal story of a trader invited to select a painting in payment of a bill who preferred the wheelbarrow Vincent brought them in, might serve as a metaphor for an undercurrent of resentment which is still detectable. As we stood looking at one view a local walked past mumbling negative FR.

Van Gogh's last address, the Auberge Ravoux, is admirably understated. It was recently restored by a Belgian who was involved in a road accident in the road outside and conceived the notion while recovering in hospital. There was a bed in the top floor room where Van Gogh shot himself. Unable to prove its authenticity, the new owner swept it out and left the room poignantly bare. Visits conclude with a very moving slide show of the last days. Strauss's *Four Last Songs* is an appropriate balm to the tragedy.

One artist has built on Auvers' international promotion by opening sidehalls involving others associated with the town. Vincent came here to be among Impressionist artist friends, with Dr Gachet, owner of the world's most expensive face.

The house of the artist Daubigny, champion of the visiting Impressionists, has been diligently restored by his descendant. The house contains real paintings, which is an oddity. There are few works elsewhere in this village by the artists who worked here, and none by Vincent. Nobody wanted them when he was alive; today nobody could



Detail from Van Gogh's pictures, *Champs de Blé*, painted during his stay in Auvers

afford them. The Château d'Auvers enlists technology to sidestep this. Without a single painting they tell most people in 90 minutes more than they ever knew about the Impressionists. Using slides, video images and sound effects it creates scenarios no art gallery would dare attempt with the original painting, such as a train trip, a dancehall and a

country outing. So we have one of Monet's studies of the Gare St Lazare, seen through girders on the bridge above the tracks.

Auvers sits on the outer limits of a theoretical day trip from Britain. From Paris it can be reached from Gare du Nord, the station where Eurostar arrives. Oddly, the service is no quicker than the

days when Corot, Pissarro and Cézanne would head for the country and a day's painting.

GARETH HUW DAVIES

The author was a guest of the French Tourist Board and Air France.

FACT FILE

■ Eurostar from Waterloo to Paris Gare du Nord costs from £59 return (0345 300003). From there local services run to Auvers. Air France (0181-742 6600) midweek. Apex London to Paris £115.

■ There are no hotels in Auvers but there are many hotels nearby in the Val d'Oise region. Details and reservations: Tourism Accueil Val d'Oise, (1 34 71 90 00).

■ Auvers has six restaurants. The writer recommends: Auberge Ravoux, Place de la Mairie, (1 34 48 05 47); Les Canotiers, Château d'Auvers, Rue de Lery, (1 34 48 05 05).

■ Van Gogh's last lodgings, Auberge Ravoux, Place de la Mairie, from Fr25 (€30). Impressionists multimedia exhibition, Château d'Auvers, (1 34 48 50). Adults Fr50, children and students Fr35; family of four Fr100.

■ Musée Daubigny, Rue de la Sansonne (1 30 36 80 20). Musée de l'Absinthe, 44 Rue Calie, admission Fr25. In Pointoise, Musée Camille Pissarro, 17 Rue de Château.

■ French Tourist Board, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (0891 244143). Send £1 in stamps for fact pack.

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TRAVEL

21

Britain: Cornwall's perfect hotel for exhausted parents, and syncopated rhythm under the Brecon Beacons

All children catered for

We occasionally have guests without children, but we always let them know what they're in for," Nicholas Malcolm says. "It's usually older couples who really get pleasure out of watching other people's children."

In the foyer of the Trevelgue Hotel, my daughter, Miranda, giggling demotically, amuses herself by racing up and down the slope that leads towards the rooms. Sometimes, her momentum outstripping her two-year-old legs, she collapses on the rug with a joyful shriek. Staff on the reception desk smile. Guests pause to avoid a collision and continue unperturbed.

This is the atmosphere of the Trevelgue. A modern building on the cliffs outside Porth, near Newquay in Cornwall, its exterior gives only a hint of the pleasure children and parents find within.

What Trevelgue acknowledges is that while the traditional Great British seaside holiday, weather permitting, can provide fun for all the family, it is rarely restful for parents. Some of the best beaches in the country are within walking distance, but if Mum and/or Dad gets "sandcastled out" then the system is geared to take over.

Children under seven have separate medicines in their own brightly-decorated Mediterranean-style pizza bar, so parents can eat later undisturbed, not *coram ble*, but excellent and carefully prepared food with a fine selection of wines all under £10.

ALAN COPPS

Welsh whisky and all that jazz

The surprise, as Dr Johnson might have said, is not that Brecon stages a jazz festival so well, but that it stages one at all. A Welsh market town of compact streets and tightrope narrow pavements at the foot of the Brecon Beacons National Park, it betrays no evidence of previous convictions in the field.

Regular visitors to the Brecon Jazz Festival next month will discover a welcome new attraction in the shape of the UK's first gallery devoted to their kind of music. Brainchild of festival marketing director Branwen Iorwerth, the Oriel Gallery was financed with lottery money. Downstairs, it features the images of photographers who have covered previous events and of noted Welsh artists commissioned to provide promotional material. Upstairs, a lively audio-visual trail traces the origins of jazz from Africa via slave ships and Mississippi riverboats to Chicago speakeasies, New York clubs and back across the Atlantic to Paris, Berlin, London and, eventually, Brecon. The title of the exhibition is *Jazz: The Sound of Surprise*.

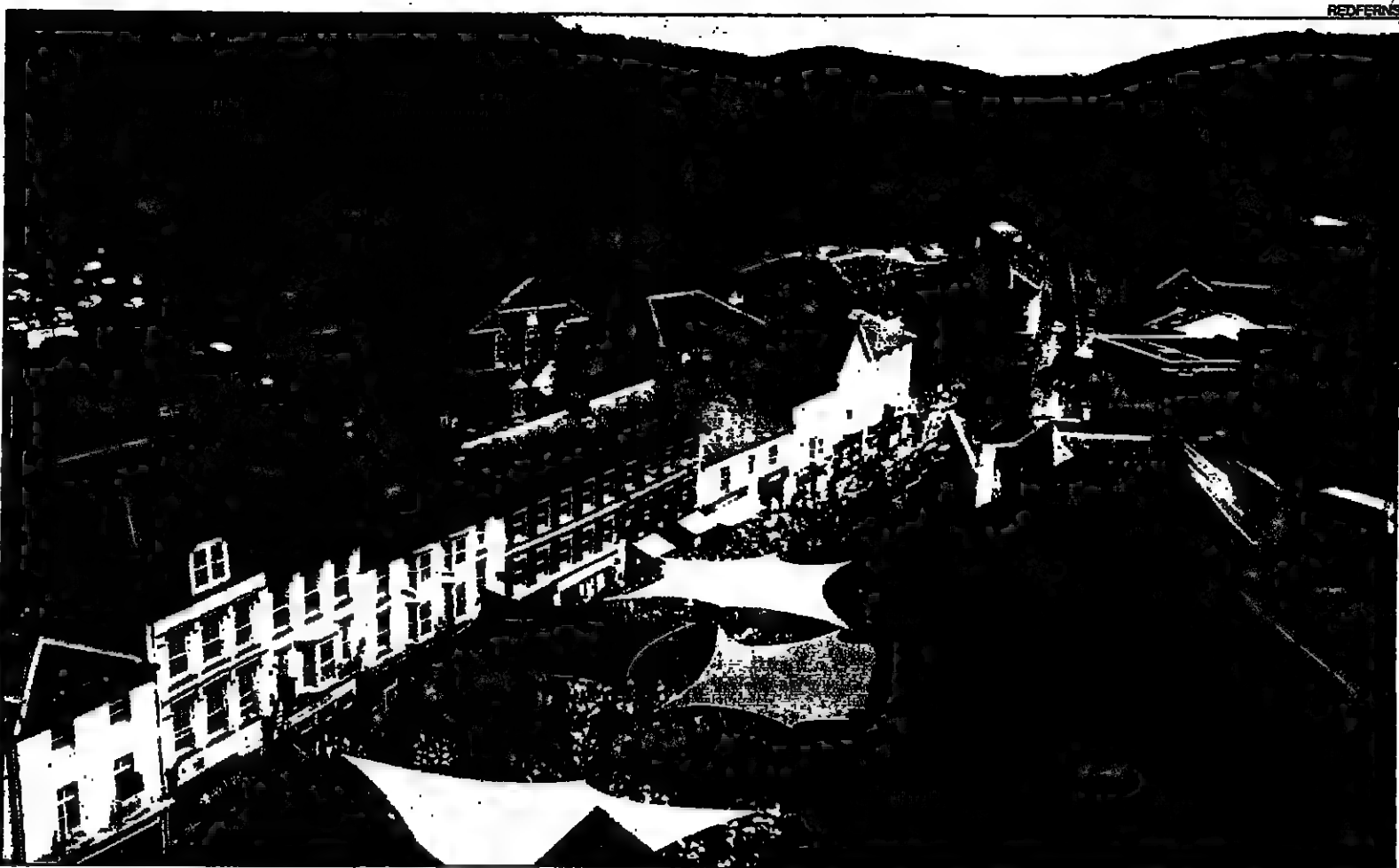
Brecon, originated in Norman times, but owes its present pleasing appearance, and particularly its Georgian architecture, to the rich folk who once patronised it during winter months. Its more recent neglect by nationwide multiple store chains ensures that its shopfronts retain a happy diversity lost these days to so many of its contemporaries.

According to Miss Iorwerth, it is the very incongruity of world-famous jazz performers descending on this rural retreat that is at the heart of its success. The fact that the town does not boast a single purpose-built venue only increases her sense of amazement. Concerts of traditional and mainstream jazz take place in various tiny locations, at street corners and in car parks under distinctive canopies that billow above audiences like multi-coloured sails.

"Until 6 o'clock on Friday evening the Market Hall will be wall-to-wall stalls," the marketing director says. "By 8 o'clock it will be transformed into a cocktail hall." George Melly, who has a home nearby and will be celebrating his 70th birthday here this year, is given to commenting from the stage on the smell of fish.

It is, indeed, remarkable that artists such as Lionel Hampton, Gerry Mulligan and Sonny Rollins have been prepared to perform in such unlikely surroundings. It was the presence of Rollins in 1969 that set the seal on Brecon's success. "Having had him here, we could get anyone," Miss Iorwerth reflects.

For three days such stars find a town centre barred to



Brecon cool: beneath billowing multicoloured canopies, the sound of modern and traditional jazz fills the streets of the ancient market town

traffic. Marching bands supplant cars and 50,000 visitors take possession of the streets. At Pickwick House, Isabel Stephen finds the character of her B&B guests changes dramatically. "They eat, talk and sleep jazz," she says.

Not that visitors to Brecon, with its medieval cathedral and castle, have ever wanted for stimulation. Brooding over all are the Beacons themselves, best seen, perhaps, in a final sunrise, when fleecing clouds delineate the contours of their vast bulk sculpted by Ice Age glaciers.

Brecon was first linked to the coast by canal in 1811 and 50 years later by rail. Nowadays the defunct railway forms part of a network of footpaths, while narrow boat trips on the canal provide a more leisurely means of exploring the countryside.

A statue of the Duke of Wellington is a reminder of Brecon's long military connections. It was from here that Davy Gann Esquire - mentioned among the Agincourt casualties in *Henry V* - set forth to fight for his king.

More recently, the town has been home to the 24th Regiment of Foot, later to become the South Wales Borderers and now amalgamated into the Royal Regiment of Wales. At the splendid regimental

museum, the curator, Col J. M. Grundy, is mildly miffed that repeated TV screenings of *Zulu* ensure the majority of his visitors hurry past three centuries of military memorabilia and have eyes only for the clutch of Victoria Crosses won when a company of 140 men from the 2nd Battalion beat off repeated attacks on Rorke's Drift by 4,000 Zulu warriors.

Contemporary portraits show that La Conville Bromhead was no dandified Michael Caine figure, but a saturnine Victorian with riddle parting and ample whiskers. Not a lot of people know that.

Not too many know either that whisky has been produced for the past 20 years in this unlikely setting. Despite worldwide sales, there may be those who would suggest that the very term Welsh whisky

borders on impertinent oxymoron. For such sceptics, proprietor Dafydd Gluys has opened a visitor centre on the outskirts of town, complete with an audio-visual exhibition demonstrating the history of whisky distillation in the Principality since the 4th century.

If the townspeople tolerate, and even welcome, the colourful wave of humanity that surges through their streets next month to see and hear the likes of Joe Henderson, Joshua Redman and Van Morrison, it is not because they are indulged too freely in the local product, however, but because they are rather proud of their home-grown festival.

ALAN ROAD

The writer was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board (01222 499101).

ON THE BRECON BEAT



Brecon now has a gallery devoted to jazz history

■ Where to stay: Castle Hotel, Castle Square (01874 624611); B&B £39-£55 pp. Pickwick House, St John's Road (01874 624322); B&B from £16 pp.

■ Attractions: Jazz festival, Aug 9-11 (01874 625557); Oriel Jazz Gallery (01874 625557); South Wales Borderers Museum, the Barracks (01874 613310); Cathedral Heritage Centre, Priory Hill (01874 625222); Welsh Whisky Visitor Centre, 2 Parc Menter (01874 622926).

WHAT TREVELGUE OFFERS



Miranda, aged two, plays at the Teddy Bears Club

■ Trevelgue Hotel, Porth near Newquay, Cornwall TR7 3LX (01637 872864, fax 01637 873665). Open mid-February to end of October.

■ From September 21 to October 20 two children under seven go free when sharing with two adults. Adult rate is from £238 for seven days in a family suite, half board, with entertainment. Other discounts according to

season. Children's teas cost £2 per day.

■ Most sports facilities are free. Small extra charges for childcare, hobby and craft sessions and the Teddy Bears Club.

■ There are special offers for single parents this year from October 5-10. These include free yoga classes, free childcare for one hour per child and a 10 per cent reduction on health and beauty treatments.

OTHER CHILD-FRIENDLY HOTELS

ALL PRICES given are for cheapest double room: CUMBRIA: Armthwaite, Bassetthwaite (01768 776551), £100. DEVON: Saunton Sands, Saunton (01271 890212), £128. DORSET: Knoll House, Studland Bay (01929 450450), £146. GRAMPIAN: Tor-na-Caille Hotel, Banchoy (01330 822242), £69. GWYNEDD: Riverside Hotel, Abersoch (01758 712419), £70. KENT: Hythe Imperial, Hythe (01303 267444), £108. NORFOLK: Sport Village Hotel, Norwich (01603 788998), £69. SHROPSHIRE: Hundred House, Norton (01952 730353), £69. TAYSIDE: Chiff Hyndro, Chiff (01764 655553), £102. WILTSHIRE: Woolley Grange, Bradford-on-Avon (01225 864705), £40. YORKSHIRE: Randell's Hotel, Skipton (01753 700100), £85.

Source: Egon Ronay's Guide 1996... and Children Come Too (Bookman, 1999). Other reading: Children Welcome (FTG, £3.99).

Answers from page 25

SMITHESIAN

(c) Of pertaining to, or characteristic of Samuel Smiles (1812-1904), author of *Self-Help* (1859) and other works for those who wish to "improve" themselves by personal effort and initiative, or his thought and writings. Alistair Huxley: "Most Smithesian souls must smell rather nasty."

TURING

(a) A notional computing machine for performing simple reading, writing and shifting operations in accordance with a prescribed set of rules, invoked in theories of computability and automata. An acronym for A. M. Turing (1912-54), English mathematician, who described such a machine in 1936.

SPURIOUS VERSEMENT

(a) Smirk without trace, usually figuratively, done for, lost from sight. The German for "smirk without trace". The phrase became widely known as a result of the publication in September 1917 of a secret telegram sent in May of that year by Count Lubow, the German minister in Buenos Aires, to Berlin, advising that German shipping should be either turned back or sunk without trace.

VISCONTIAL

(a) Resonant of a viscount. Cf. viscontial and viscontial, other adjectives from viscount, for which there is seldom much need in the real world. Margot Asquith, Autobiography, 1916: "You beat your tangled music out/ Lofly, aloof, viscontial."

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1997: February 15, 22, 29, 29, 29, 29
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 29, 29
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There is also a spacious bar and dining room mid-ship, though we frequently offer buffets on the open deck.

The remainder of this 200 foot long and 36 foot beam ship is open deck space, intended for local cargo and deck passengers. We have tastefully converted these open deck areas with a sun deck, partly covered by an awning, bar and buffet area on the top deck offering the best view and there is a broad open promenade deck below.

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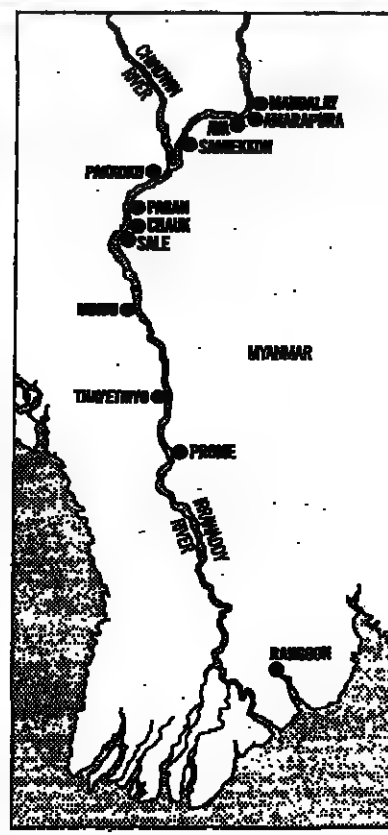
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GAMES

25

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE YOUNG Russian Vladimir Kramnik has been playing like a true champion recently. Over the past year, he has either tied for first or won first prize outright in virtually every event in which he has competed.

The tournament at Dortmund, which finished earlier this month, witnessed a further Kramnik success. In the following game he annihilates Germany's strongest grandmaster.

White: Robert Hubner
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Dortmund, July 1996

1 d4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Bc7 4 Bxc6 bxc6 5 Bb5 a6 6 Bxc6 bxc6 7 Qd2 Qc7 8 Bb5 a6 9 Bxc6 bxc6 10 Bb5 a6 11 Bb5 a6 12 Bb5 a6 13 Bb5 a6 14 Bb5 a6 15 Bb5 a6 16 Bb5 a6 17 Bb5 a6 18 Bb5 a6 19 Bb5 a6 20 Bb5 a6 21 Bb5 a6 22 Bb5 a6

Black's resolute play has deterred White from moving forward his kingside pawns. This type of unobtrusive attack normally indicates that the white player is running out of strategic ideas.

18 Bb5 a6 19 Bb5 a6 20 Bb5 a6 21 Bb5 a6 22 Bb5 a6

This move, sacrificing rook for bishop, must have come as a terrible shock to White. If now 24 Bxb5, axb5 followed by ... Rb8 with a massive attack in the a-file. The additional threat is ... Ra5, when Nxa5 is ruled out on account of mate at e2.

24 Qd2 Ng4. Not yet 24 ... Ra5, on account of 25 a3 bxa3, when Black's rook on a5 is exposed to double attack. 25 e4. White loses patience and precipitates the end by encouraging an exchange sacrifice from a different direction.

25 ... bxc3 26 bxc3 Rxb3+ 27 Kd2 Rb3 28 Kd3 Rb3 29 Kd4 Rb3 30 Kd5 Rb3 31 Kd6 Rb3 32 Kd7 Rb3 33 Kd8 Rb3 34 Kd9 Rb3 35 Kd10 Rb3 36 Kd11 Rb3 37 Kd12 Rb3 38 Kd13 Rb3 39 Kd14 Rb3 40 Kd15 Rb3 41 Kd16 Rb3 42 Kd17 Rb3 43 Kd18 Rb3 44 Kd19 Rb3 45 Kd20 Rb3 46 Kd21 Rb3 47 Kd22 Rb3 48 Kd23 Rb3 49 Kd24 Rb3 50 Kd25 Rb3 51 Kd26 Rb3 52 Kd27 Rb3 53 Kd28 Rb3 54 Kd29 Rb3 55 Kd30 Rb3 56 Kd31 Rb3 57 Kd32 Rb3 58 Kd33 Rb3 59 Kd34 Rb3 60 Kd35 Rb3 61 Kd36 Rb3 62 Kd37 Rb3 63 Kd38 Rb3 64 Kd39 Rb3 65 Kd40 Rb3 66 Kd41 Rb3 67 Kd42 Rb3 68 Kd43 Rb3 69 Kd44 Rb3 70 Kd45 Rb3 71 Kd46 Rb3 72 Kd47 Rb3 73 Kd48 Rb3 74 Kd49 Rb3 75 Kd50 Rb3 76 Kd51 Rb3 77 Kd52 Rb3 78 Kd53 Rb3 79 Kd54 Rb3 80 Kd55 Rb3 81 Kd56 Rb3 82 Kd57 Rb3 83 Kd58 Rb3 84 Kd59 Rb3 85 Kd60 Rb3 86 Kd61 Rb3 87 Kd62 Rb3 88 Kd63 Rb3 89 Kd64 Rb3 90 Kd65 Rb3 91 Kd66 Rb3 92 Kd67 Rb3 93 Kd68 Rb3 94 Kd69 Rb3 95 Kd70 Rb3 96 Kd71 Rb3 97 Kd72 Rb3 98 Kd73 Rb3 99 Kd74 Rb3 100 Kd75 Rb3 101 Kd76 Rb3 102 Kd77 Rb3 103 Kd78 Rb3 104 Kd79 Rb3 105 Kd80 Rb3 106 Kd81 Rb3 107 Kd82 Rb3 108 Kd83 Rb3 109 Kd84 Rb3 110 Kd85 Rb3 111 Kd86 Rb3 112 Kd87 Rb3 113 Kd88 Rb3 114 Kd89 Rb3 115 Kd90 Rb3 116 Kd91 Rb3 117 Kd92 Rb3 118 Kd93 Rb3 119 Kd94 Rb3 120 Kd95 Rb3 121 Kd96 Rb3 122 Kd97 Rb3 123 Kd98 Rb3 124 Kd99 Rb3 125 Kd100 Rb3 126 Kd101 Rb3 127 Kd102 Rb3 128 Kd103 Rb3 129 Kd104 Rb3 130 Kd105 Rb3 131 Kd106 Rb3 132 Kd107 Rb3 133 Kd108 Rb3 134 Kd109 Rb3 135 Kd110 Rb3 136 Kd111 Rb3 137 Kd112 Rb3 138 Kd113 Rb3 139 Kd114 Rb3 140 Kd115 Rb3 141 Kd116 Rb3 142 Kd117 Rb3 143 Kd118 Rb3 144 Kd119 Rb3 145 Kd120 Rb3 146 Kd121 Rb3 147 Kd122 Rb3 148 Kd123 Rb3 149 Kd124 Rb3 150 Kd125 Rb3 151 Kd126 Rb3 152 Kd127 Rb3 153 Kd128 Rb3 154 Kd129 Rb3 155 Kd130 Rb3 156 Kd131 Rb3 157 Kd132 Rb3 158 Kd133 Rb3 159 Kd134 Rb3 160 Kd135 Rb3 161 Kd136 Rb3 162 Kd137 Rb3 163 Kd138 Rb3 164 Kd139 Rb3 165 Kd140 Rb3 166 Kd141 Rb3 167 Kd142 Rb3 168 Kd143 Rb3 169 Kd144 Rb3 170 Kd145 Rb3 171 Kd146 Rb3 172 Kd147 Rb3 173 Kd148 Rb3 174 Kd149 Rb3 175 Kd150 Rb3 176 Kd151 Rb3 177 Kd152 Rb3 178 Kd153 Rb3 179 Kd154 Rb3 180 Kd155 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SAVINGS

Overpayment can bring tax problem to AVCs



Sara McConnell on potential pitfalls that can make a simple formula an investing nightmare

THE EXTRAORDINARY complexity of pension rules, which were highlighted again last week by Chris Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, means that simple concepts turn into fiscal and administrative nightmares. Additional voluntary contribution (AVC) schemes, designed to help employees to boost their company pensions, are no exception to this rule.

AVCs are apparently simple. You make contributions each month, as though you were paying into a personal pension, choosing either between an AVC scheme run by your employer, or an insurance company package. Your employer's scheme will be more cost-effective, as the charges are lower. Your final payout depends on how much you contributed, and the success of the investment managers.



Paul Oates is confused over his AVC contributions

There are two potential pitfalls, however, as Paul Oates, a teacher from Preston, Lancashire, points out:

"The first is that it is possible to overpay contributions and it is unlikely that the insurance company concerned will warn you about this. If you do overpay, the surplus contributions are returned to you when you retire, but subject to a high rate of tax."

"The second is that I am advised by the Prudential, which manages our AVC scheme, that if you choose, or through ill-health have to, retire early, the accumulated fund must be invested in an annuity at the same time as the occupational pension begins. It cannot be delayed, either in order to increase later

income or because of market conditions, as you can with a personal pension plan. I cannot see any difference in principle between contributions to an AVC and those to a personal pension plan."

WEEKEND MONEY replies: In the case of overpaying, both you and your occupational pension administrators are responsible for seeing this does not happen, according to Andy Cox, AVC specialist at Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary.

The maximum you can receive from an occupational pension based on your final salary, including AVCs is two thirds of your final salary. The maximum you can contribute, including AVCs, is 15 per cent of salary. When you decide to contribute to an AVC, your scheme will do what Mr Cox calls a "headroom check" to see you are not overshooting. But this is difficult to judge exactly. The investment could do better than expected, your salary could be lower, or you could decide to retire later. In the end, you are the one who suffers if you do make a mistake. Until recently you just lost any excess contributions. Now you get back the contributions, but these are taxed, at your highest rate plus about 10 per cent.

If you are a higher rate taxpayer, overfunding could be expensive, as you will have to hand half your contribution to the taxman. The reasoning is that you have had tax breaks on contributions that have then rolled up tax free. So you should have to give back some of this in tax on excess contributions.

On your second point, it is unfortunately true that you cannot defer buying an annuity with your AVC contributions if the scheme you are retiring from is also the one for which you are making AVCs. But if your AVC fund was built up with a previous employer, you can defer buying an annuity.

Last year, rules on buying annuities immediately were relaxed for personal pensions, allowing a pause if rates were poor at retirement. As you say, personal pensions and AVCs are very similar. The reason deferral is allowed only in certain circumstances appears to be that it is considered part of an occupational pension.

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2002 INFORMATION SERVICE



Shares drift in quiet end to week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
25	410	400	Adn. Brew.	27	0	0	10.0
26	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
27	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
28	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
29	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
30	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
31	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
32	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
33	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
34	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
35	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
36	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
37	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
38	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
39	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
40	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
41	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
42	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
43	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
44	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
45	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
46	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
47	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
48	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
49	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
50	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BANKS							
51	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
52	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
53	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
54	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
55	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
56	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
57	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
58	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
59	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
60	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
61	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
62	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
63	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
64	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
65	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
66	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
67	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
68	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
69	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
70	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BREWERS, PUBS & REST							
71	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
72	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
73	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
74	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
75	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
76	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
77	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
78	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
79	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
80	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
81	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
82	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
83	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
84	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
85	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
86	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
87	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
88	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
89	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
90	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							
91	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
92	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
93	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
94	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
95	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
96	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
97	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
98	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
99	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
100	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
101	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
102	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
103	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
104	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
105	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
106	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
107	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
108	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
109	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
110	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS							
111	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
112	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
113	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
114	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
115	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
116	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
117	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
118	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
119	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
120	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
121	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
122	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
123	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
124	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
125	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
126	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
127	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
128	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
129	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
130	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
ENGINEERING							
131	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
132	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
133	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
134	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
135	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
136	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
137	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
138	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
139	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
140	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
141	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
142	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
143	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
144	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
145	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
146	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
147	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
148	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
149	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
150	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
CHEMICALS							
151	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
152	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
153	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
154	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
155	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
156	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
157	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
158	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
159	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
160	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
161	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
162	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
163	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
164	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
165	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
166	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
167	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
168	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
169	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
170	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS							
171	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
172	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
173	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
174	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
175	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
176	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
177	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
178	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
179	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
180	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
181	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
182	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
183	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
184	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0
185	100	95	Adn. Brew.	100	0	0	10.0

MOTOR RACING

Villeneuve pinning hopes on victory to pressurise Hill

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN HOCKENHEIM

DAMON HILL and Jacques Villeneuve bumped and jostled in the race yesterday and let the underdog steal their thunder. As the pacemakers disappeared into the distance, the two Williams-Renault drivers sat tight down in the middle of the field with Pedro Diniz. They only had eyes for each other.

By the end of the first two practice sessions for tomorrow's German Grand Prix here, they were languishing in eighth and eleventh places respectively, surprising positions even on a day that was increasingly being used for experimentation and not for setting fast times.

Perhaps each was waiting for the other to make a move, put on a set of fresh tyres to raise the stakes by a second. Neither did and, when it was over and they were comfortably adrift of Gerhard Berger's leading time in his Benetton-Renault, neither seemed to care. The rest, even Michael Schumacher, struggling in his Ferrari in front of his home supporters, do not matter any more. Six races are left and it is down to Hill and Villeneuve now.

Both accept privately, too, that this is crunch time; that this year's world drivers' championship is likely to be won and lost on this track in the midst of the Hockenheim Forest, where the drivers reach speeds of more than 200mph, where power is everything and nerves are

jangling. They have remained meticulously friendly with each other, but both know that the battle is now truly joined.

Hill has reacted with relative sangfroid to the rumours that are bouncing around about his future, but he would not be human if he was not unsettled by them at such a crucial stage of the season. Still, he kept his nose ahead of his team-mate yesterday, pronounced himself unconcerned by his position and said he could have gone much quicker had he used fresh tyres, as the McLaren-Mercedes and Benetton-Renaults did.

For the first time this season, though, his lead in the race for the championship does not look impregnable. Villeneuve is circling. The Englishman still has a richly deserved 15-point lead, but his mechanical failure at Silver-

stone a fortnight ago during the British Grand Prix has allowed the Canadian within striking distance.

After tomorrow's race, the next two grands prix take place on circuits with which Villeneuve is not familiar and which, unlike the Hockenheimring, are difficult to learn. This represents his best chance of closing the gap still further on Hill and he is determined to take it.

"It is a simple track to learn and the corners are not that bad. This race is going to be crucial because I picked up ten points on Damon at Silverstone and now I am fighting hard," Villeneuve said. "I know I have to do well here because the next two races, in Hungary and at Spa [the Belgian Grand Prix], are on circuits that are not so easy to learn."

"The team has not been quite so competitive here as at some other circuits, but that does not matter. I am closer to Damon here than I have been at other tracks I did not know. I am confident and I believe I can overhaul him. I feel more assured and experienced now. It is getting easier for me. If it comes to a straight fight between us, I can win. It was like that at Silverstone, at least until the first corner."

At Benetton, a team still adapting to life without Schumacher, Flavio Briatore, their managing director, was at his most laconic. At lunchtime, he stood in his motor home and surveyed the diners at the tables. "We are only good at making pasta now," he said, with a grin. "It is important to be the best at something."

An hour later, Berger gave him some faster food to chew on, but the Austrian was not over-confident. "I am happy to be quickest, but it is too early to say anything much further," he said. "I would be happy to make it to the second row in qualifying and then finish the race and make it to the podium."



Berger: fastest in practice

DETAILS FROM HOCKENHEIM

PRACTICE TIMES: 1. G. Berger (Austria, Benetton) 1m 46.145sec; 2. D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1m 46.184; 3. E. Irvine (Ireland, Ferrari) 1m 46.195; 4. J. Alesi (France, Benetton) 1m 46.204; 5. M. Hakkinen (Finland, McLaren) 1m 46.284; 6. M. Brundage (GB, Jordan) 1m 46.487; 7. M. Schumacher (Germany, Ferrari) 1m 46.559; 8. D. Hill (GB, Williams) 1m 46.598; 9. R. Barrichello (Brazil, Williams) 1m 47.534; 10. J. Villeneuve (Canada, Williams) 1m 47.595; 11. G. P. P. (Lap) 1m 47.595; 12. P. Diniz (Brazil, Williams) 1m 48.157; 13. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1m 48.220; 14. M. Salo (Finland, Tyrrell) 1m 48.233; 15. J. Verstappen (Netherlands, Arrows) 1m 49.620; 16. J. Kanaan (Jamaica, Tyrrell) 1m 49.843; 17. P. Lamy (France, Minardi) 1m 50.872; 18. R. F. (Lap) 1m 50.872; 19. G. Lavaggi (Italy, Minardi) 1m 50.872; 20. G. Lavaggi (Italy, Minardi) 1m 50.872.

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (after ten rounds): Drivers: 1. Hill 60pts; 2. Villeneuve 45; 3. Schumacher 26; 4. Alesi 25; 5. Coulthard, Berger and Hakkinen 16; 6. Irvine 11; 7. Barrichello 10; 8. Diniz 9; 9. Verstappen and Diniz 8; 10. Brundage 7; 11. Williams 6; 12. Salo 5; 13. Herbert 4; 14. Brundage 3; 15. Kanaan 2; 16. Lamy 1; 17. P. Diniz 1; 18. P. Lamy 1; 19. J. Kanaan 1; 20. J. Verstappen 1.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Tomorrow: German Grand Prix, Hockenheim, Aug 11; Hungarian Grand Prix, Hungaroring, Aug 25; Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps, Sept 8; Italian Grand Prix, Monza, Sept 22; Portuguese Grand Prix, Estoril, Oct 13; Japanese Grand Prix, Suzuka, Oct 27.



Smith shows splendid form as she leads Essex. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Happy outing for Smith

BY ALIX RAMSAY

COUNTY Week may be a throwback to a bygone era of British tennis, as the week progresses it may be more a test of leg power than skill and in Eastbourne it may be watched by more seagulls than people, but it still has its compensations. There is the achievement of winning 15 matches in a row for a start. For Sam Smith, achieving that feat is not to be sneezed at. It is getting easier for me. If it comes to a straight fight between us, I can win. It was like that at Silverstone, at least until the first corner."

Since the start of the year, her life has been a series of medical disasters. In February, she was sidelined with shin splints, only to sprain both ankles as soon as she came back. Three weeks later, she came down with chicken pox while playing in Poland. Added complications landed her in hospital for a week. "It seems like every time I get

going, I grind to a halt again," she said. Not that she is too worried. At the start of the year, she was ranked outside the top 300 in the world, but now, despite the setbacks, she has moved up to No 220.

Playing three doubles matches a day against the has-beens, night-haves-beens and never-really-stood-a-chance brigade that make the annual trip to Eastbourne may not be quite what the doctor ordered as Smith tries to make her way back up the world rankings, but she is still happy to be a part of it all. "I find this really useful," she said. "It made up for her latest medical trauma — a bad case of prickly heat."

Yesterday, she rounded off her unbeaten sequence at Devonshire Park alongside Mary Collins, beating Julia Boden and Chrissie Tee, of Surrey.

7-6, 6-3, as Essex retained their title for the fourth year. The only blot on an otherwise unblemished Essex record was the defeat of Helen Crook and Amanda James in their final match. It ended Crook's unbeaten run of 59 consecutive rubbers over four years.

Surrey won the men's title in their first year back in group one, yesterday waiting past relegated Derbyshire 8-1. Derbyshire will be joined in group two next year by Leicestershire, who were relegated 9-0 by Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In the women's event, Kent and Surrey were relegated.

As for Devonshire Park, the venue lost its chance to stage Britain's Davis Cup tie in September. Britain will now take on Egypt at Wimbledon instead.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos may prove final test for Gibbs

BY DAVID MADDOCK

SCOTT GIBBS, the St Helens centre, will travel to the capital today with a sentimental tear in his eye. The game against London Broncos looks certain to be his last for the club he has helped steer to the verge of the inaugural Super League championship.

Gibbs is set on a return to rugby union, the sport where he first made his name, and St Helens revealed yesterday that a £200,000 transfer is likely to be concluded next week, thus preventing him from taking part in the tense run-in as St Helens challenge Wigan for the right to become the first summer champions.

It is a difficult decision for Gibbs as he would like to be there to see the side he has served so well over the last two seasons crowned. Instead, he will have to content himself today to helping St Helens overcome what many people believe will be the toughest of their remaining games.

St Helens need to win their last five games to ensure that they remain at the top of the Super League and the mercurial skills of the admittedly inconsistent Broncos, especially at their London ground, is never an easy prospect. Gibbs believes that victory will go a long way to securing that elusive title. "We

do not think that any game is easy now, but we know that we must win this one and we know that Broncos are determined to make it as tough as possible for us," he said.

David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, admitted that it would be a blow losing one of their most influential players on the last leg of the title race. Given the interest of Swansea, who are favourites to sign their former player, Howes believes he had no choice. "We said all along that we wouldn't stand in Scott's way," he said.

"He told us that he wanted to return to union and we accepted that, we told him that we would allow it provided the deal was right for the club. There is an improved offer on the table and it is looking like it will go through next week."

The move will turn Gibbs' career full circle, as he left Swansea two years ago to move north in a £250,000 deal. His sentiments have always remained with union and the riches now on offer after the game turned professional proved irresistible.

St Helens will have Andrew Northey, their loose forward, back after a two-game ban and Broncos will welcome back Terry Matterson, and Gavin Allen from injury.

Offiah fails to sign in time for leading role

LONDON Broncos failed to complete the transfer of Martin Offiah yesterday in time to display him as their new signing for the game against St Helens, the Super League leaders. Tonight (David Maddock writes).

The deal, however, will go through this weekend, putting Offiah in line to become the first dual international in both rugby codes. London were keen to complete the transfer before the Spm deadline which would have given Offiah a high-profile debut against St Helens as they pursue their ambition of becoming the inaugural summer champi-

ons of rugby league. Offiah will combine his role in league with a winter season for Bedford rugby union club, who are backed by Frank Warren, the boxing promoter. Warren has vowed to inject large sums of money into the club to put them among the elite.

Offiah is seen as the perfect league man to switch codes, as he started his career with Rosslyn Park in union. His deadly finishing instinct is undiminished and it is assumed he could soon become a full international at union as well as league, where he is a fixture in the Great Britain team.

FOR THE RECORD

(HOL) J. Mills (Aust), L. Navarro (Sp), P. M. (HOL) J. Mills (Aust), L. Navarro (Sp), P. M. (HOL) J. Mills (Aust), L. Navarro (Sp), P. M.

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 10, Baltimore 7; Kansas City 10, New York 6; Toronto 4, Oakland 3; Minnesota 16, Boston 8; Texas 4, Chicago 3 (12 innings); California 5, Milwaukee 4; Detroit 7, St. Louis 4 (10 innings).
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles 6, St. Louis 5; Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 5; Montreal 4, St. Louis 2; San Francisco 4, Atlanta 3; Chicago 10, Colorado 5.

CRICKET
MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: (first day of two) Cumberland 240 and 187 (D. J. Clarke 64, M. Saged 5-50), Bedfordshire 222-6 (D. Smith 61, D. 118-5. Match drawn. Kenton School: Cambridge 136 and 342-4 (S. A. Keel 88, not out, 81; P. Davies 80; Buckingham 186-5 and 230-7 (N. D. Burns 88, match drawn).

FOOTBALL
UEFA CUP QUALIFYING ROUND DRAW (British teams only): Group A: FC Kooze (Bosnia) v Celtic (Scotland); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group B: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group C: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group D: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group E: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group F: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group G: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group H: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group I: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group J: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group K: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group L: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group M: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group N: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group O: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Group P: Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); Celtic v Kooze (Bosnia); 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24-hour coverage



OLYMPIC GAMES: TITLE AT THIRD SUCCESSIVE GAMES ELEVATES HUNGARIAN TO HALL OF FAME

Egerszegi and Popov prove class apart

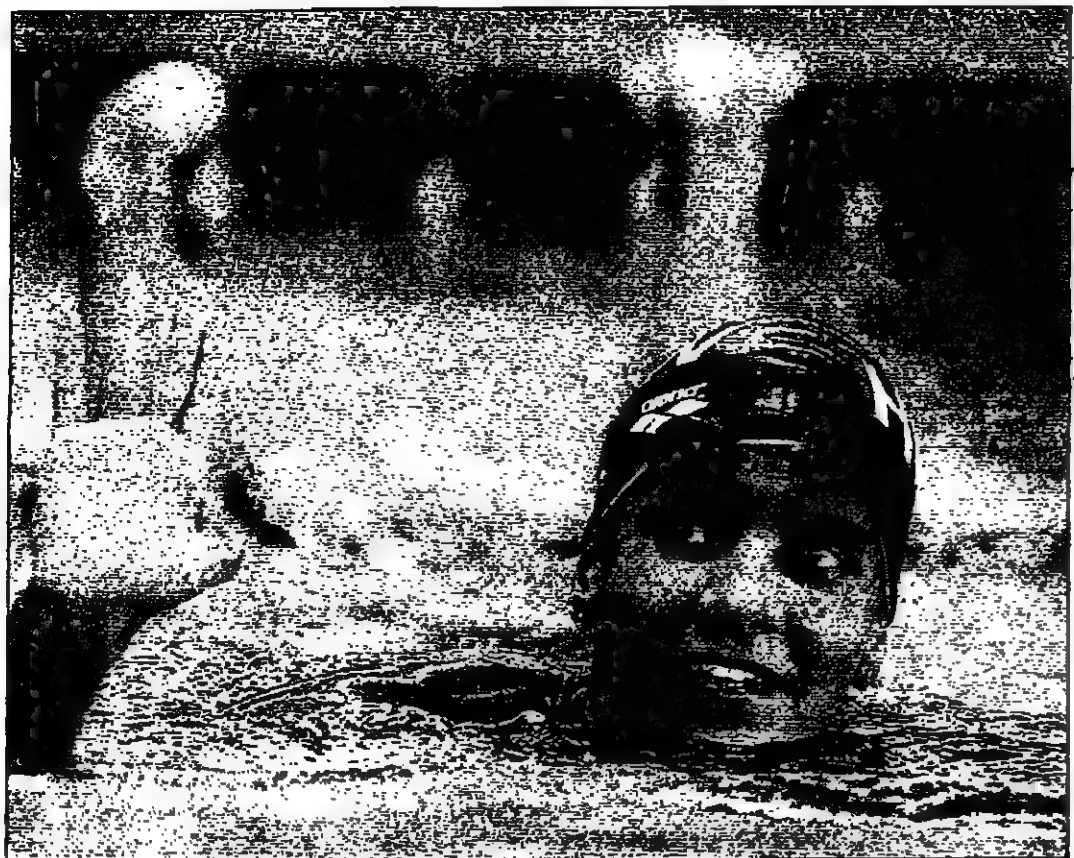
FROM CRAIG LORD
IN ATLANTA

MANY giants of sport grace the hall of fame, but few deserve a room of their own. Kristina Egerszegi and Alexander Popov earned that honour at the Georgia Tech pool, the Hungarian woman emulating the triple gold achievement of Dawn Fraser, the Australian legend, the Russian becoming the greatest sprinter in history.

Fraser, the only swimmer before Egerszegi to have won the same Olympic title at three successive Games, in the 100 metres freestyle in 1956, 1960 and 1964, had to watch the Hungarian woman emulating the triple gold achievement of Dawn Fraser, the Australian legend, the Russian becoming the greatest sprinter in history.

Popov has four, the Russian, unbeaten in long-course racing since 1990, retaining his 50 metre title three days after becoming the first man since Johnny Tarzan Weissmuller in 1928 to keep the 100 metre crown. His time was 22.13sec, the fastest in the world since the 22.2sec of Gary Hall Jr, the son of the man who won a silver medal behind Mark Spitz in the 200 metres butterfly in 1972.

However, it was the Hungarian, following in the footsteps of Fraser, who stole the show. She had first won the 200 metres in Seoul in 1988,



Egerszegi smiles to acknowledge her supporters after sealing the backstroke title for a third time; Popov raises his arm in triumph

when she was 14 and the highest competitor in the final by 42lb, her main opposition being the East German. She was back four years on to win in Barcelona, where the Hungarian woman emulating the triple gold achievement of Dawn Fraser, the Australian legend, the Russian becoming the greatest sprinter in history.

Egerszegi, one of whose exercises is to swim with a box

on her forehead to strengthen her neck, was ahead of world record pace in the 200 metres, but faded fractionally over the second half. The effort, though, was the sixth-fastest ever in a list of top-ten times in which only two women — He Chong, of China, and Betsy Mitchell, of the United States — join Egerszegi's eight best figures.

A ten-minute standing ovation followed her 2min 6.52sec world record in the 200 metres at the European champion-

ships at Athens in 1991, but in Atlanta, the 15,000 crowd was not as knowledgeable and was more concerned with the second-placed Whitney Hedgepeth, of the United States. They seemed to be oblivious to the skill before them, Egerszegi's mastery of water such that the element appears to make way for her.

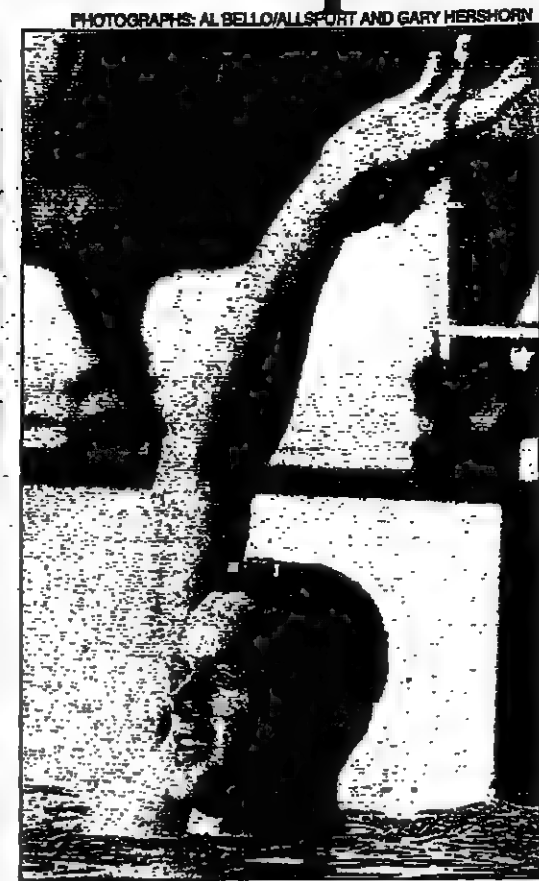
Egerszegi, who did not swim the 100 metres at the Georgia Tech pool because she was "too old", clocked a faster time in the medley relay

than that which won the individual title here and passed the halfway mark of 200 metres in a time that would have won her the bronze medal in the individual event. She postponed retirement in 1994 after defeat and loss of her 100 metre world record to He Chong, one of an army of Chinese debutantes.

Egerszegi, who said she had great respect for Fraser, whom she sent her best wishes, was less complimentary of He, who came from nowhere to

win the world title and break the world record in 1994, but finished 26th here, in 1min 57.8sec, compared with her 1min 40.6sec world record.

After her swansong effort, the Hungarian said through a translator: "I think it's terrible that she is world record-holder. The result here is unbelievable. She [the Chinese] is much weaker, her arms have lost all their strength. It's impossible for anyone to have a six-second difference over 100 metres."



PHOTOGRAPHS: AL BELL/ALLSPORT AND GARY HERSHORN

Hockey hopes hanging by a slender thread

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

GREAT Britain's chances of qualifying for the semi-finals of the men's hockey tournament hung by a slender thread after their 2-2 draw with Malaysia in pool B on Thursday night. Victory against South Africa today would mean their fate would be decided on Monday, when they meet Australia.

South Africa have earned a reputation for resilience, having fought back to draw 1-1 with Australia. Better still, they cancelled out a 3-1 lead gathered by South Korea.

Their forward, Greg Nicol, has scored four goals in three matches and will have his sights trained on the British goal today. Calum Giles has again been Britain's mainstay, with four goals in three matches from short corners.

He was denied another attempt amid chaotic scenes at the end of the match against Malaysia. With about 20 seconds left on the clock, Britain were awarded what would have been their sixth short corner, but time ran out.

In those last fleeting seconds, Britain wanted to change their goalkeeper. Had the opportunity to do so been granted, the clock would have had to have been stopped and Britain would have had time to sort out the pattern for that last short corner.

The substitution sign was shown, but neither of the umpires saw it and the corner was never taken. "We put in an official protest which was later withdrawn as it would have been futile," David Whitte, the manager, said.

Holland enhanced their chances of a place in the last four from the same group with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Australia, who took the lead when Sproule scored after a scramble. De Nooyer levelled the score soon after. Hager restored Australia's advantage, but, almost on half-time, Boveland provided a second equaliser from a short corner. Van den Honert won the match for Holland late in the second half.

Yesterday, Germany put themselves in a strong position to qualify for the semi-finals from pool A with a 3-0 victory over Australia. The Germans have only the United States to beat in their final match.

In the women's event, the United States, who lost 2-1 to Argentina, decided to go to the jury of appeal after their protest over time-wasting was rejected.

In their match, the clock was stopped with two seconds to go because of an injury to an Argentinean player. When play was restarted, a shot from the last short corner of the match, by the United States captain, Barbara Maroi, was deflected.

The Americans protested that the clock should have been stopped earlier to give them more time to prepare for the short corner.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Badminton

Men's singles
SECOND ROUND: J. Choo (Sing) beat P. Kwon (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

Men's doubles
FIRST ROUND: A. Antropov and N. Zuev (Rus) beat N. Pongtong and J. Robertson (GB) 15-13, 15-10, 15-4; S. Archer and C. Hunt (GB) beat S. Chien and H. Hsu (Tai) 15-11, 15-12

Women's doubles
FIRST ROUND: E. Corne and E. van den Heuvel (Hol) beat M. Morgan and J. Macgregor (GB) 15-10, 15-5

Baseball

Round-robin
New York Yankees 10, Italy 12; Australia 8, United States 15; Japan 6

Basketball

Women's preliminary round
POOL A: Russia 70, Italy 70; Brazil 100, Japan 81; China 61, Canada 61; USA 70, Australia 61

Boxing

Bantamweight
SECOND ROUND: R. Haskins (GB) beat J. B. B. (GB) 3-0; J. B. B. (GB) beat J. B. B. (GB) 3-0; J. B. B. (GB) beat J. B. B. (GB) 3-0

Weightlifting

SECOND ROUND: M. Simon (Rom) beat F. Vignoli (Ita) 141, 141; S. D. (GB) beat S. D. (GB) 141, 141; S. D. (GB) beat S. D. (GB) 141, 141

Heavyweight

SECOND ROUND: M. Simon (Rom) beat F. Vignoli (Ita) 141, 141; S. D. (GB) beat S. D. (GB) 141, 141; S. D. (GB) beat S. D. (GB) 141, 141

Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Fencing

Men's team foil
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Fencing

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Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Fencing

Men's team foil
FIRST ROUND: Russia beat Canada 45-40, Poland 45-38, Hungary 45-38, Germany 45-38

Football

Men's preliminary round
POOL C: Italy 2, South Korea 1; Ghana 1, Mexico 1

Women's preliminary round
POOL A: Sweden 3, Denmark 1; United States 3, China 0

Gymnastics

Women's all-around
1. L. Podkopaeva (Ukr) 29.550pts, 2. S. Kim (Kor) 29.400pts, 3. S. Kim (Kor) 29.350pts, 4. S. Kim (Kor) 29.300pts

Handball

Men's preliminary round
POOL A: Hungary 22, Croatia 11; Switzerland 19, Sweden 13; Russia 17, Spain 12; Germany 20, Egypt 11; Brazil 20

Hockey

Men's preliminary round
POOL A: Russia 3, Canada 2; USA 3, Australia 2; Germany 3, China 2; France 3, Italy 2; Spain 3, Japan 2

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

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Judo

Men's under 65kg
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Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Judo

Men's under 65kg
POOL A: Sweden 2, Japan 1; USA 2, Australia 1; Germany 2, China 1; France 2, Italy 1; Spain 2, Japan 1

Women's under 52kg

POOL A: First round: L. Melnikova (Rus) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL B: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL C: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL D: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL E: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL F: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL G: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL H: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL I: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL J: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL K: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL L: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL M: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL N: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL O: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL P: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL Q: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL R: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL S: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL T: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL U: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL V: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL W: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

POOL X: First round: H. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9; S. Kim (Kor) beat S. Kim (Kor) 15-11, 15-9

Table tennis

Men's singles
PRELIMINARY ROUND: A. Mazzoni (Ita) beat C. P. (GB) 21-19, 21-15, 21-15

Men's doubles
PRELIMINARY ROUND: Y. Ding (Chi) beat L. L. (GB) 21-14, 21-14

Men's singles
PRELIMINARY ROUND: Y. Ding (Chi) beat L. L. (GB) 21-14, 21-14

Men's doubles
PRELIMINARY ROUND: Y. Ding (Chi) beat L. L. (GB) 21-14, 21-14

Men's singles
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Men's doubles
PRELIMINARY ROUND: Y. Ding (Chi) beat L. L. (GB) 21-14, 21-14

Surprises abound in world of cut and thrust

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA won the men's team foil gold medal yesterday by beating Poland 45-40 to bring to a close the six-day fencing programme. Cuba, the World Cup winners, took bronze.

"It has been a good Olympics," René Roch, the recently re-elected president of the International Fencing Federation (FIE), said. "There have been some surprises, which is good for the sport, and the standard has been high."

The two British competitors — James Williams, in the sabre class, and Fiona McIntosh, at foil — went out early in the proceedings, but Williams, who lost to the world No 6, Sergei Charikov, of Russia, showed potential for success over the next four years.

Internationally, Britain still hovers outside the top league, but, with work and a little luck, team qualification for the Sydney Games in 2000 is possible, especially in men's foil and sabre.

The women's épée, an Olympic discipline for the first time, was won by Laura Flessel, of France, who also swept to team gold by beating Italy 45-39. The normally powerful Hungarians had to settle for fourth place, Russia taking bronze by one hit in extra time.

The biggest upset was the failure of the favourites in men's épée to reach the medals. The defending champion, Eric Srecki, of France, slipped to ninth, one ahead of Arnd Schmidt, of Germany, ranked No 2 in the world, one ahead of Srecki. Sandro Cuomo, of Italy, who topped the world rankings, finished fifth. The winner, Aleksandr Beketov, was ranked No 21.

In the women's foil, the defending champion, Giovanna Trillini, of Italy, had to be satisfied with third place as Laura Badea, of Romania, who pipped Trillini to the world title last year, took gold.

The women's team event became a battle between Trillini and Badea with the other four participants little more than extras. The pair scored 38 out of the 78 hits involved as Italy won 45-33.

Overall, Russia, France and Italy dominated the medals table, with Russia collecting the most golds, but China, South Korea and, in particular, the United States are looking increasingly strong.

If proposed technical changes succeed in simplifying the sport and the FIE's development plans bear fruit, the days of European domination may be numbered.

Yachting

Men's Mistral
LEADING POSITIONS AFTER FIVE RACES: 1. C. Bagnan (GB) 2. F. L. (GB) 18.3, 3. S. (GB) 18.3,

Odd quartet finds discord leads to closer harmony

Lightweight crews find going heavy

McColgan sure she can handle the stress

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Australian fined for altercation

Doubles success

Badminton: Chris Hunt and Simon Archer, of Great Britain, had to work hard to produce their opening win in the doubles. Hunt and Archer, the 1994 European champions, needed to recover from deficits of 3-9 and 6-11 against a tenacious and sharp-witted Tin He and Chan Siu Kong, of Hong Kong, before finally winning a tense match 15-11, 15-12.

At last — we're up and running

has chance supporters

Simpson has chance to reward supporters

WHILE the attention of the nation will be on Steve Redgrave's quest for a fourth Olympic gold medal today, the residents of South Cave on Humberside will have eyes only for their own champion, competing 120 miles away on the Ocoee River (Andrew Longmore writes). South Cave is the home of Lynn Simpson, the women's canoe slalom world champion.

Three years ago, when Simpson was struggling for money, the residents of South Cave thought they ought to help. While Simpson was

Pursuit quartet are floored by failure

BRITAIN'S 4,000 metres pursuit quartet were still unable to take in fully, that like Graeme Obree, they have failed to qualify for the quarter-finals of their cycling event after the time-trial round yesterday (Peter Bryan writes).

The quartet of Chris Newton, Bryan Steel, Matthew Illingworth and Rob Hayles were well-knit, smooth in their riding and going faster here in training than they had on Manchester's indoor track. It was hardly consolation, but the once all-powerful German team, gold medal-winners in

Hopes rise of boost in medal haul

Speaking yesterday morning, Hickey, the BOA's technical director, said: "At this point of the Games, a realistic assessment was that we would have won five medals. Instead, it has been a very disappointing first week. In some cases, there has been a fairly obvious lack of preparation for the mental toughness required for the Games. Confidence is needed almost to the point of arrogance."

Doubles success

Badminton: Chris Hunt and Simon Archer, of Great Britain, had to work hard to produce their opening win in the doubles. Hunt and Archer, the 1994 European champions, needed to recover from deficits of 3-9 and 6-11 against a tenacious and sharp-witted Tim He and Chan Siu Kong, of Hong Kong, before finally winning a tense match 15-11, 15-12.

OLYMPIC GAMES: FOUR MEDALS IN PROSPECT AFTER OPENING WEEK ON THE WATER

Plain sailing as it always used to be

David Miller enjoys a day in Savannah far from the concrete, commercialism and chaos that is Atlanta



THIS historic broad-river sea port, fortified by the British in the eighteenth century to prevent Spanish brigands forging their way northwards, plays host to an Olympic sport that is being conducted the way it always used to be: intimate but intense, relaxed yet rigorously competitive. Britain's optimism in yachting, with a proud past record of 30 medals, flies high at the end of the first week.

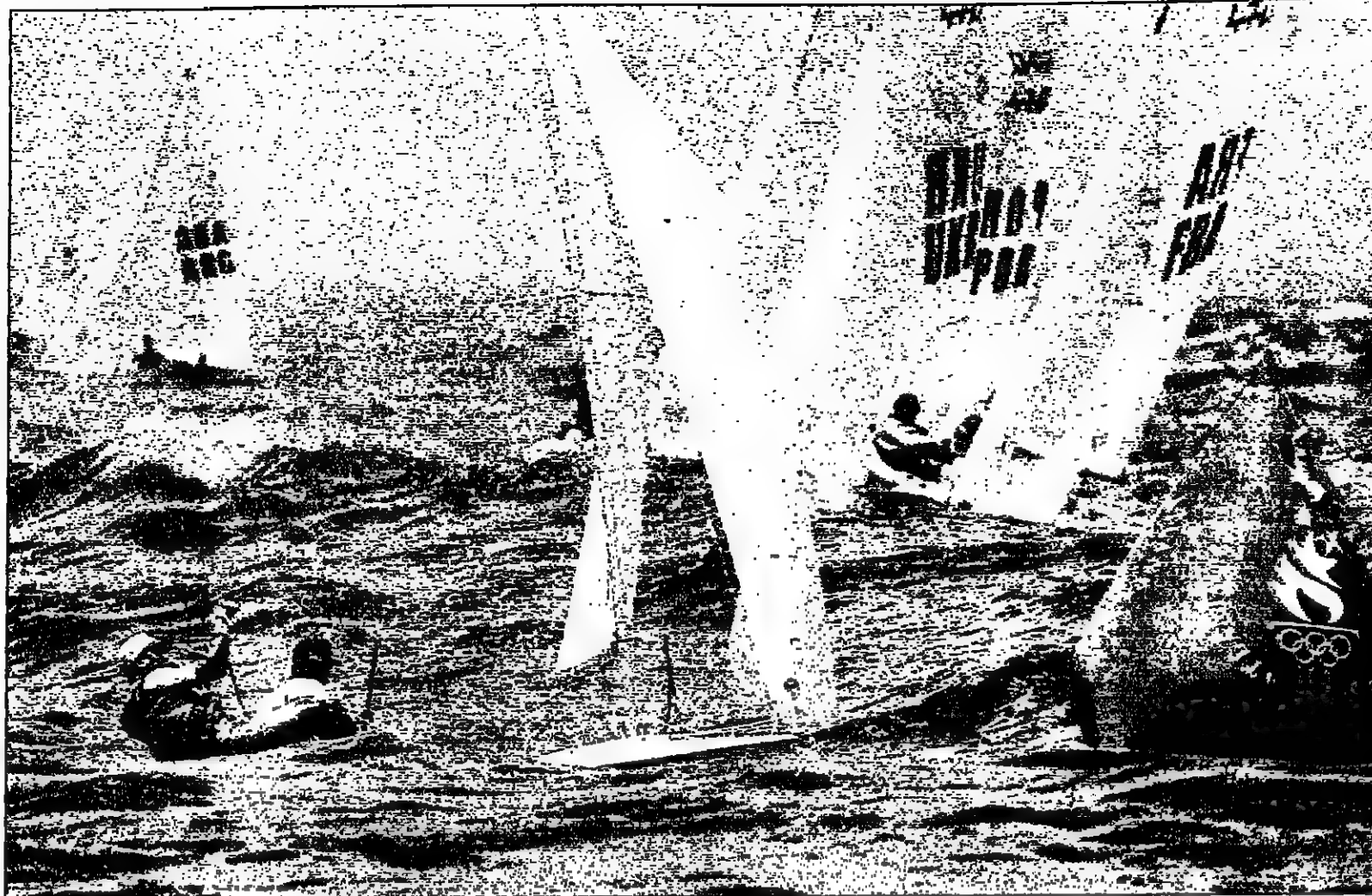
Ben Ainslie, the 19-year-old protégé in his Laser, Shirley Robertson in her Europe single-handed, Andrew Bardsworth, Barry Parkin, and Adrian Stead in their Soling and Ian Walker and John Merricks in a 470 are all negotiating turbulent waters towards a medal.

To be doing so is testimony to their ability, to the Olympic steering group run by Mike McIntyre, the team leader, under the aegis of the Royal Yachting Association and to the work of Jim Saltonstall, coach-cum-talent scout. Any medals gained will be the more outstanding, given that the annual racing budget is one-tenth of what Spain spent when winning five gold medals at Barcelona.

Conditions have been variable all week, regularly interrupted by squall showers or thunder storms. Yesterday, light winds in the morning were expected to help Ainslie, lying second overall after placing second and first in two races on Thursday, and Penny Wilson on her sail board, with a stronger afternoon breeze valuable to Merricks and Walker in their 470.

The latter pair won on Thursday and lie fifth overall. "The British seem to go best in stronger breezes," Merricks said. "With over 12 knots, we have an advantage."

He and Walker were bitterly disappointed to lose last year's world championship in Brazil, when they were overhauled by the Dutch in the last race, and they were angry to have fouled up their opening race here (they finished fifteenth) when missing a wind-shift. Merricks is out



Merricks and Walker ride the waves round the weather mark on their way to victory in the 470 class off Savannah yesterday

of the Chay Blyth mould: tough, demanding, no-room-for-excuse. Bomb-proof, some say.

Bardsworth, Parkin — known to his friends as 007 for being Connery-smooth — and Stead lie third after first-seventh-seventh finishes in the ten fleet-race series, from which the top six go into match-racing finals. "We could have sailed better," Bardsworth said. There had been speculation, when they won the British match-race trials, about whether they would survive the preliminary series of Olympic fleet racing.

McIntyre, a former Olympic champion in the Star class in 1988, was unworried. "We went for match-racing trials, believing our boat would have time to find speed for fleet racing," he explained. The Soling crew trained in Florida for part of last winter.

Robertson, a smiling Scot, sits in the bronze medal position after a first-seventh-eighth-third-sixth series on her sophisticated Europe dinghy, with its laminated wing mast. With Kristina Roug, of Denmark, already way out in front, Robertson, ranked No 1 in the world from 1993-95, reckons there are three contenders besides herself for the other two medals. She says the afternoon big wind swings have made life complicated.

Ainslie, winner of last year's world youth championship and third in this year's World Cup (open), is touted as the next Rodney Pattison, who gained two gold medals and a silver, from 1968-76. Jacques Rogge, an IOC member from Belgium and former Finn world champion, considers the youngster's potential to be limitless.

"I've seen him for two years and his class on the water is so evident," Rogge said. "I've known most British yachts-

men since the Sixties and this guy has pure talent — technically and tactically, a natural gift. If he continues to improve, he'll go on a streak like Rodney. He mustn't be hyped too much and I hope he's not lured into big-boast professionalism, that he's not allowed to drift away."

In Rogge's opinion, British youngsters, schooled by Saltonstall, are among the best of any country. Therein lies the problem for McIntyre and the RYA: how to retain loyalty to Olympic competition when handicapped by inadequate sponsorship, even allowing for generous support

from the Sports Aid foundation. The contradiction of the Lottery funding is frustrating: that it must go to facilities — £100,000 for this year's boats and not to competitive preparation.

"Our target this time is to do better than one gold and one silver," McIntyre said, "and I'm optimistic we can achieve that."

It was a pleasure to escape from the concrete, commercial jungle and the rampant chaos of Atlanta for 12 hours and experience the traditional Olympic ambience at Savannah. The security is effective here without being fanatically bureaucratic. Southern hospitality is surviving in this elegant town, which avoided destruction during the Civil War by granting General Sherman the best private bath in town.

It may be a 90-minute journey out to the marina and then a further hour's sailing to the course, but the sailing community is enjoying a comparatively crisis-free Games. Paul Henderson, head of the International Yacht Racing Union, has even managed to establish, for a mere £15,000, an impromptu internet computer results system which bypasses the malfunctioning IBM-ACOG official network.

Before that, Henderson had spent \$500,000 of the Federation's Olympic revenue in advance, to ensure an efficient regatta for those for whom this is a fortnight in a lifetime. His sport is consequently the envy of many others in Atlanta.

Promising start bodes well for Britons

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN SAVANNAH

GREAT Britain's Tornado catamaran team of Dave Williams and Ian Rhodes have made a useful start to their second Olympic regatta with two top-ten finishes and are lying sixth overall in a fleet led by Fernando Leon and José Luis Ballester, of Spain.

Williams and Rhodes, a joiner and electrician respectively, from Whitstable Sailing Club in Kent, who were ninth at the Barcelona Games, are not the most hotly-tipped pairing for a medal, but have been in the top ten at most pre-Olympic regattas this year. The challenge for them is to try to get the tactics right to string

together a consistent series and to get into the medal-winning positions.

Williams, one of the most naturally gifted catamaran helms Britain has produced, has always maintained that they can win, believing they have the boatspeed and experience. In the second race, sailed close to 20 knots, the Britons were second at the first mark behind Roland Gähler and Frank Parlow, the world champions from Germany. They slipped to fifth at the second windward mark, having found themselves in a corridor of lighter wind, and finished seventh. The race was won by Franck Citeau and Fred Le Peutrec, of France.

The Tornado fleet is by far



the fastest in the Olympic field. It has been won for the last three Games by France, who are again in contention this time, lying in fifth place overall. Apart from Spain, Australia's double world champions and bronze medal-winners in Barcelona, Mitch Booth and Andrew Landenberg, who are second overall, are likely to be among the medalists, as will Andreas Hagara and Florian Schneberger, of Austria.

Another Briton having a second go at Olympic competition is Penny Wilson in the

women's windsurfing, who was sixth at Barcelona and is rated highly by her coaches for a medal this time. Wilson has assiduously avoided the media during the build-up to the Games and is now lying seventh overall after five races with five fifth-place finishes.

She had a bit of a shock in her second race when the slot gasket on the centreboard case failed when she was lying in second position, dropping her back to fifteenth. Under a rule introduced after the Barcelona Games, allowing competitors to seek redress for gear failure attributed to the manufacturer on supplied equipment, she was then reinstated to fifth place.

Tait takes gold with faultless display

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN CONYERS

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, added a gloriously unexpected Olympic gold medal to his formidable list of successes yesterday. Riding Ready Teddy, the former world champion and winner of the individual bronze medal in Barcelona four years ago retained his overnight lead with a faultless performance in the showjumping phase of the individual three-day event.

The New Zealand team, already the winners of the team bronze medal, were celebrating further when Sally Clark, 38, in her first Olympic Games, won the silver medal on Squirrel Hill. Kerry Millikin, a registered nurse from Westport, Maryland, who used the United States selectors for leaving her out of the team for the 1988 Games, took the bronze.

Great Britain's already dismal effort here sank to a new low when the two riders left in the individual competition — Mary King, on King William, and Chris Hunnable, on Bootsie — collected 40 and 30 faults respectively and finished tenth and twelfth. "It's disappointing," Ginny Elliot, the team trainer, said with understatement.

King William, who had been lying seventh, looked in trouble from the moment he entered the arena. Flattening each fence, just as he did at Barcelona, he hit eight of the 12 obstacles. More surprisingly, Hunnable and Mr Bootsie hit six fences.

Of all the great feats of horsemanship in the history of three-day eventing, few will rank higher than Tait's vic-

tory. Brought in at the last moment to replace Mark Todd and the injured Karyn, the 35-year-old, who is based in Gloucestershire, had dismissed his chances at the outset, saying his young eight-year-old thoroughbred, a novice last year, "wasn't really ready for an Olympics".

Yet Tait, one of the most stylish and sympathetic riders in the sport, coaxed a magnificent clear round from the young horse in the cross-country stage on Thursday to find himself at the head of the



field at the start of yesterday's showjumping.

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Crying shame of gymnasts' crash landings

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

Welcome once again to the theatre of cruelty. To be more precise, the Georgia Dome, a Roman circus with air conditioning, where vicious, capricious cruelties are dealt out on a daily basis.

It is the place where little girls fly, where little girls pout and preen, where little girls fall to the ground and weep. Rivers of tears. Oceans of tears. This is where the women's gymnastics competition takes place.

A strange business and a riveting one. America was still awash with the heroics of Kerri Strug, whose vault on a wounded ankle completed the United States' run for the team gold medal earlier in the week.

As we went into the individual all-around competition, the most important event in gymnastics, with Strug a spectator with a strapped ankle and a brave expression, the Georgia Dome prepared itself for another orgiastic night of whooping patriotism. Shannon Miller, Dominique Dawes, Dominique Moceanu: which American girl would get the gold?

Yet it was the night of the silencing of the whoops. For Moceanu, a 14-year-old with a cute smile and a stress fracture, it ended early with a poor, wobbly routine on the beam. Dawes took the lead with great flair and athleticism, though she had Miller, a gymnast of stunning, cold-eyed consistency, right at her heels.

Then came the floor, the least nerve-racking of the four disciplines. Miller, after a wonderful performance on the beam, prepared to seize her moment. And missed. She muffed a landing at the end of a run of tumbles and, on the next run, stepped off the mat. One, two, three and where's your medal?

Nothing could be crueler: like summer tempests shed her tears. It was time for Dawes to show how it should be done. There is a move in the floor exercise when, after a run of backward tumbles, you punch a somersault forward, trouncing your own ace. It is a wonderfully theatrical move, a paradox of motion, turning all that backward momentum the other way. Dawes failed to resolve the paradox: fell backwards, landed on her bum. No medal: the salt waters of failure were flowing once more.

Woe followed woe, and not only for the Americans. Kochetkova, of Russia, should have stepped into the gap created by these terrible mistakes. Odd-looking thing: she has the face of prison wardress grafted onto the body of a child. She took a lurching unbalanced step on each of her vaults and that was the end of her.

You fly for show, but you land for dough. You can

criticise a lot about these subjectively-judged sports, but you can't argue with a landing. Either you nail it, or you don't. No landing, no medals. Cruel, as I say.

Gymnastics is a perennially criticised sport and it is hard not to feel equivocal about it for all manner of reasons. Regularly, observers, including members of the medical profession, point out that pursuing gymnastics in youth can lead to injury problems later in life.

And people also feel uncomfortable with the large numbers of failures: the public disaster of the Miller-Dawes kind; the private failures of the many girls who never make it; forced out of the sport by injury and inadequacy.

These things are not to be laughed off. After these games, gymnasts must turn 16 in the year of competition, a good thing, and perhaps the age should be raised again in due course. A lot of people would feel more comfortable with that.

These cruelties of failure and injury and the despair of the very young cause distress because, in gymnastics, they are public. The fact is that every single sport that ever was is based on failure and injury and despair. For every elite performer, there are a thousand who failed. Every star of every sport stands high and tall, balanced precariously on the broken bodies and minds of the failures.

How many 14-year-old footballers are told that their knees have gone, or that they are plain not good enough? Thousands every year. We do not see their tears on television, but the game depends on them. Turtles and the sea.

And so Lilia Podkapayeva, of Ukraine, the defending world champion, won the gold medal with a performance of excellence rather than inspiration. She now stands tall on her broken rivets.

Gymnastics is a cruel business. That is because it is a sport: it is by definition cruel. We wouldn't be here if it wasn't.

Cubans threaten to hijack America's sporting dream

Andrew Longmore sees an explosive clash of cultures on the volleyball court

THEY counted them all in and they counted them all in. Nobody sought political asylum, no one hopped over the outside barriers and disappeared forever into the whirlpool of downtown Atlanta. They were too busy celebrating to defect. Besides, there is no money in volleyball.

In the absence of the Cold War, the American sporting propaganda machine is still looking for an enemy. The Cubans are the most threatening target. A dark, brooding nation that produces dark, sinister sportsmen, baseball pitchers and boxers, men of few words and strong arms.

Cuba's volleyball victory over the United States is followed tomorrow by the confrontation between the two countries at baseball. Next week, Felix Savon and Ariel Hernandez, the pick of the formidable Cuban boxing army, will doubtless match the pick of the Americans in the finals at the Alexander Coliseum. Already, Arnaldo Mesa has destroyed the great reputation of the United States bantamweight, Zahir Raheem.

"I told my boys they could win in the US," Juan Diaz, coach of the Cuba volleyball team, said. "My boys went to play with confidence and they kept on fighting with the same rhythm." Cuba won 4-15, 15-9, 14-16, 15-8, 18-16 in 2½ ferocious hours and talked a lot about rhythm. "At the end, they let go because they could not understand our rhythm," Freddy Brooks, the Cuba captain, said.

If there was political tension in the contest, it was concealed



every day, lurking about by the side of the court when not occupied in blocking and spiking the Americans on it.

Volleyball is the fourth-most popular sport in Cuba, after baseball, basketball and boxing, sports that the Americans regard as theirs. It is no coincidence that there is big money to be earned from all three. The defection by Ramon Garbey and Joel Casamayor, two of their top boxers, and Rolando Arrojo, their best pitcher, on the eve of the Games has made the Cuban authorities very jumpy about these Olympics.

The most famous pitcher in the Cuban League, Orlando Hernandez, was mysteriously not picked for the Olympic squad because, it was said, he might be lured away by the major leagues.

Alberto Juanatena, double

gold medal-winner at the Montreal Olympics in 1976 and now vice-president of the Cuban Olympic committee, dismisses the defectors as "bad potatoes" and rounds on Cuba's critics. "Many whispers, many stories about my country which paint a bad picture," he said.

Looking at the United States volleyball team, with their college jock haircuts and their overt machiness, the temptation was to invest a mere game of volleyball with all manner of deep meaning, to interpret the running verbal battle between the two No 4s, Joel Despaigue, of Cuba, and Bob Cvirlik, of the United States, as a metaphor for political sniping. "No, that's not the way at all," Bryan Ivie, of the United States, said. "Volleyball is in an in-your-face sort of game, you're jumping together, blocking and spiking shots. It's physical. They're No 4 goes at it hard and so does ours, but it's about sporting respect, not any political stuff. We've just played these guys a lot and we hate to lose. This was part of an ongoing battle."

Asked if his team's victory would be a spur to the whole Cuban team, Diaz was the epitome of diplomacy. "All our teams will be prepared to play to the best of their ability, whether it's against the US or any other country. We are Latins, we have hot blood in our veins and we want to win everything for our country just as the US does." The Cubans won a little bit more this time, but if this was a portent of rivalries to come, who cares about the politics. It was just great sport.

field at the start of yesterday's showjumping. Clark and Squirrel Hill increased the pressure when they went clear in the showjumping, which meant that Tait could not afford to have a fence down in order to win the gold. As the 30,000 crowd fell silent, Tait began his round. Ready Teddy, who won the Pratoni event in Italy in May — his only previous advanced competition — sensed the occasion. There was a rattle of poles at fences ten and 11a, but both held and New Zealand had their third individual gold medal since 1984.

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Rund shows true regard for the Olympic spirit

Alex Bennett is moved by the action of one of her rivals

AT LAST, after much organisation and several attempts, I have made it to the athletes' village. Having got an invitation through the Romanian federation (I), I made my way to the main gate by taxi. I asked where I could collect my accreditation, but was told that I was in the wrong place and that I would have to walk a couple of blocks, travel on the underground for three stops and then get on the official bus to take me into the village. This sounded far too complicated and involved far too much walking.

However, I felt a tap on my shoulder. Danyon Loader, my friend and a double gold medal-winner here, had come to my rescue. We hugged, I said my congratulations and we headed to the nearby New Zealand headquarters. The New Zealanders kindly offered me a lift to where I had to catch the bus. Danyon came with me and again I thought I might actually make it to my destination!



Rund, right, on the podium after receiving her medal

I had a go on the virtual reality hang-gliding game (I didn't crash once). Finally, I visited the department store to buy souvenirs and had the classic photo taken of myself with the Games mascot.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and my impressions of it were good, even if it seemed a little sterile and a little too big. Although it does the job, it lacks the atmosphere the Barcelona village apparently had.

My journey from the village to the aquatic centre for the evening swimming was far easier: the volunteers organising transport offered me a car straight to the pool. It was door-to-door service — now that is the sort of thing that really makes you appreciate what is done at the Olympics.

That evening at the pool, I again felt the emotional side of the Games. I watched Cathleen Rund, a German I have raced for years and now write to frequently, win the bronze in the 200 metres backstroke. As she paraded past the audience after her medal ceremony, I waved and she threw me her bouquet of flowers. I felt indescribable emotion for her: it is every experience like this that makes me realise just how much I want to compete at an Olympics.

Right now, all I can hope is that I will make it to Sydney in 2000 and that something one of the Canadian swimmers said will work for me. She said: "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger." My car crash didn't kill me so I hope she is right and that this will allow my dreams to come true.

Headley's bowling does the trick for Kent

Brian's team won the championship in Derbyshire

Durham's Essex

Headley's bowling does the trick for Kent

By Rupert Cox

DERBY (second day of four): Kent, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs ahead of Derbyshire

FOR the cynically minded, the over-rat at the County Ground must have furrowed the brow yesterday, but that apart — and there were mitigating circumstances — the cricket was totally absorbing. There was something for everyone as Kent wrestled the ascendancy thanks to an exemplary display of seam and swing bowling from Dean Headley that incorporated a hat-trick in his opening over. He ended up with career-best figures of eight for 98.

Play commenced with Kent, 381 for five overnight, looking for a substantial first-innings total. The leaden skies, however, assisted the Derbyshire bowlers to the extent that the visitors only mustered a further 64 runs for their remaining five wickets.

The conditions helped Devon Malcolm collect his second five-wicket haul of the season. In the process, he ended Marsh's participation by breaking the Kent captain's left index finger.

Malcolm extracted sufficient bounce to discomfit the Kent lower-order batsmen and induced Marsh, unsurprisingly in view of his injury, into the indeterminate stroke that was his downfall. Phil DeFreitas collected his 800th first-class victim when he snared McCague on the mid-wicket boundary.

If Derbyshire a tricky 25-minute spell to negotiate before lunch in murky light. They adjourned at 24 for four after five intriguing overs. In the second, which incidentally cost him 12 runs, Headley stole the limelight by ripping out the mainstays of Derbyshire's batting. Barnett and Adams were undone by good outswingers and then Jones, playing for another, was baffled by one that nipped back and kept low and trapped him before.

In spite of their predicament, Derbyshire's response was to counter-attack and they accrued 221 runs in the afternoon session for the loss of another four wickets. The defiance was based around Tim O'Gorman's dogged 62 and punctuated by more breezy contributions from Wells, DeFreitas and, after tea, Krikken. DeFreitas clubbed 47 from 34 balls, with six fours and two sixes. Including one parried by Headley over the square-leg boundary.

Although Derbyshire fell four runs short of the follow-on target, Kent chose to bat again and immediately lost Fulton. Marsh's admirable deputy behind the stumps, who collected a pair.

Headley's bowling did the trick for Kent, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs ahead of Derbyshire

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CRICKET: FAST BOWLER RETURNS FROM EXILE TO TREAT LORD'S CROWD TO REMINDER OF PAST GLORIES

Waqar swings Test advantage towards Pakistan

SIMON WILDE



At Lord's

THERE was a real buzz about the old place yesterday, as 25,000 people inside Lord's watched Waqar Younis, the Pakistani fast bowler, return from exile to treat the Lord's crowd to a reminder of his past glories.

Even before that, it was obvious from the ease with which Rashid Latif and Alauddin Rehman, Pakistan's last-wicket pair, extended their overnight stand that conditions were not in their favour. When Knight and Stewart took up residence in the afternoon, it looked as though Pakistan's vaunted attack might be ground into the dirt.

But this was an England team trying to gain the initiative, remember, and they have demonstrated their fallibility at doing this more than once this summer, including the corresponding day of the Lord's Test against India.

At 3.15pm, Waqar began his second spell from the Pavilion End and in his second over whistled one under Knight's chin. Knight was judged leg-before to the next ball and, if the verdict was open to question, the batsman might have done better to offer more than half a stroke at the ball.

England had been guilty of allowing themselves to feel the sand beneath their feet and when Stewart fell to Mushtaq in the next over, those sands were shifting uneasily.

The match was very much alive now. Waqar had a ball that was around 40 overs old and for the remainder of his spell, which continued after tea, he swung it, casting back memories to his successes here in 1992 — as though the off-stage ferrying of personnel between the press and television boxes to the High Court was not doing that already.

In his fifth over Waqar yorked the sorry figure of Hick with a ball that did not, in fact, deviate much in flight. It was the fourth time he had taken the wicket of Hick in Tests, making him his favourite England scalp.

In his sixth over, one of Waqar's deliveries was timed by the speedometer at 94mph, rivaling the pace of Jeff Thomson in his pomp. Not

that after two days of eccentric behaviour, anyone is inclined to believe the speedometer anymore. Most of Waqar's readings were much lower than that.

Waqar is not carrying any excess weight, but he looked like a man who is fighting not only for fitness, but also the advancing years, which is a strange thing for a scurrying 24 to be doing — but his age is another reading which no one trusts.

In the past 20 months — largely because of injury — Waqar has played in only six Test matches and taken 12 wickets, only four of which, before yesterday, belonged to specialist batsmen. The wickets have cost over 40 runs each; the previous 190 came at under 20.

The world may have grown slightly sceptical of Waqar's prodigious record, and not only because of the stigma that has attached to the ball-tampering allegations. Surrey have let their ardour for the player cool to the extent that the club says it has no specific plans to bring him back in 1997. It will simply monitor his fitness and performance this summer "with interest".

However, to discount Waqar when he has much to prove would be rash. He bowled some formidable deliveries yesterday, especially in a yorker-strewn final spell. He and Wasim remain the most likely deciding factor in this series.

Thereafter, on this pitch — still an absolute beauty — the support bowling for Walsh looked less than lethal. Order and Penney adding 63. Then Penney, playing too early, gave Alleyne a return catch and Singh betrayed his immaturity by holding out to cover off Walsh. With half the side out, Warwickshire were still 412 behind, and the follow-on loomed.

Just as Thursday belonged to Windward, so yesterday belonged to Walsh and Symonds. Fading light caused Walsh to take himself off in full flight, and with three scalps on his belt.

Symonds reached his century only by courtesy of Walsh. The big West Indian realised that the best way to increase his team's score and to allow Symonds to reach his century was to give him the bowling.

This he did to such effect that the last wicket pair put on 51 runs in six overs and Symonds went past his century after only two hours at the crease.

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Yorkshire have won the title for the past four years. East Midlands for the four years before that, but 1996 promises to be the most open competition since the tournament began in 1980. After emphatic defeats in the internationals against New Zealand, England's finest cricketers will have a point to prove.

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Walsh makes Warwickshire suffer

By Jack Bailey

CHELTEMHAM (second day of four): Warwickshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 366 runs behind Gloucestershire

IT IS one of the oldest maxims in the game that if you want to defeat the opposition, first make them attack and then defend. Significantly, Gloucestershire had achieved that prime objective against Warwickshire, because apparent long before 3.05pm, when they reached 366, the highest total made in matches between the two counties.

Keen and alert throughout a long sojourn in the field on Thursday, the Warwickshire bear betrayed more than the odd trace of ill-humour as the opportunity opened by Windward, with his 183, was seized upon by Symonds. He scored 127 runs from 103 balls, hitting three sixes and 14 fours in a fine exhibition of hard, clean hitting.

Having fielded without quite the impressive zeal and discipline they summoned on the first day and having watched Gloucestershire add a further 237 for their last seven wickets, Warwickshire were immediately on the back foot as Walsh roared in from the Chapel End.

Neil Smith played some fine forcing offside strokes against his namesake, Mike, but the Gloucestershire captain priced out Moles and Burns with fast bowling of rare quality. Smith's brisk innings of 41 out of 73 ended with an attempt to cut Davis's arm ball.

Thereafter, on this pitch — still an absolute beauty — the support bowling for Walsh looked less than lethal. Order and Penney adding 63. Then Penney, playing too early, gave Alleyne a return catch and Singh betrayed his immaturity by holding out to cover off Walsh. With half the side out, Warwickshire were still 412 behind, and the follow-on loomed.

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Hollooake shoulders weighty burden well

By Ivo Tennant

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 28 runs ahead of Surrey

ADAM HOLLOOAKE was given the vice-captaincy of Surrey this year, ahead of older and more experienced colleagues. Given how often Alec Stewart is absent with England, there will be much for him to do if his county are to have a chance of winning the championship. His innings of 83 yesterday enabled them to continue to harbour such thoughts.

Hampshire's last three wickets had added 27 runs in the morning, Martin Bicknell finishing with four for 64. Thereupon Butcher took to Hampshire's attack: this was his tenth half-century of the season, reached emphatically with a four through the covers.

Thereafter, on this pitch — still an absolute beauty — the support bowling for Walsh looked less than lethal. Order and Penney adding 63. Then Penney, playing too early, gave Alleyne a return catch and Singh betrayed his immaturity by holding out to cover off Walsh. With half the side out, Warwickshire were still 412 behind, and the follow-on loomed.

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Yorkshire dreams shattered by Lee's brilliance

By Pat Gibson

SCARBOROUGH (third day of four): Yorkshire, with three second-innings wickets in hand, need 253 runs to beat Somerset

EVEN the shrieking seagulls seem to be mocking Yorkshire's championship ambitions last night. Shane Lee had ripped them to shreds with a breathtaking innings of 134 and Kevin Shine tore through the resultant debris to take three wickets in seven balls as they collapsed in the face of a daunting target of 413.

By the close, they were a pitiful 160 for seven and although Darren Gough and Harley were breathing defiance in a stand of 54, no one was going to answer the batting of Lee.

It was a measure of how well he played that the North Marine Road crowd gave the Australian all-rounder a standing ovation, despite the damage he had done to the Yorkshire cause.

When he went in at 121 for five, Somerset were still only 138 ahead and Yorkshire had every reason to believe that their policy of playing them on a "result" pitch would prove to be the right one. By the time he was out, just 113 minutes later, their spirit had been broken and their cricket had gone to pieces.

Lee, now averaging 92 in first-class cricket this season, scorched to his 100 in 80 minutes off 81 balls with a six and 17 fours. He hit another six and five more fours off his next 29 balls and was inches short of clearing the rope for a third time when White caught him on the mid-wicket boundary off Stump.

While he was there, Lee shared stands of 80 with Lathwell, who played pretty well himself for his 80, and 95 with Turner, who contributed just eight.

More importantly, he had reduced Yorkshire to something close to a rabble. Gough lost his head, Byas lost his grip and Turner, Rose and Caddick rubbed salt in the gaping wounds by taking Somerset to a total of 395.

It meant that Yorkshire had to score 62 more than they had ever done to win a championship match and they perished at the very thought.

Rose had Moxon picked up at mid-wicket. Caddick did for Vaughan and Shine had both Byas and White caught behind. In between times, he had McGrath caught by Lee, running back from slip, off a top edge for a "king pair" and when Lee bowled Blakey and the rampant Caddick had Bevan caught by Lee in the slips. Somerset claimed the extra half-hour in the attempt to win inside three days.

Worcester made to suffer from Sales boost

By Geoffrey Widdell

DAVID SALES, 18, who had the chastening experience and being out third ball for nought on Wednesday on his first-class debut for Northamptonshire, atoned in remarkable fashion at Kidderminster yesterday with an assault on the Worcestershire bowling which brought him an unbeaten 191.

Another nine runs today will make him the first player to score a double century in his first championship game. Sales hit 26 fours and three sixes from 215 balls as his side amassed 417 for three to lead by 395. So far, he has batted for 245 minutes in a glorious exhibition.

Sales, who survived one chance, at 70, said: "I was very nervous about getting off the mark but when I did, I relaxed. Now I'll have to go for it in the morning."

Phil Simmons, captain of Leicestershire in the absence of the injured James Whitaker, returned five for 88 — his best bowling figures in this country — as well as taking three slip catches at Grace Road as Sussex were bowled out for 294, gaining a first innings lead of 28 over the championship contenders after being 27 for three.

Leicestershire's confident response to Glamorgan's 505 at Cardiff suggests that only declarations can bring about a positive result. Matthew Maynard completed the third double-century of his career as Glamorgan recovered from the shock of losing four wickets inside the first five overs.

Today

First Cornhill Test match
11.0, third day of five, 90 overs minimum
LORD'S: England v Pakistan

Derbyshire v Kent
11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum
Derbyshire v Kent

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SPORT

TENNIS 42
Smith's unbeaten run helps Essex to fourth title

CRICKET 47
Headley hat-trick puts Kent in charge at Derby



SATURDAY JULY 27 1996

Rival predicts world record will be broken in Olympic Games 100 metres showdown

Christie eases in for final assault

President's seal of approval for Smith

FROM CRAIG LORD

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTA

THE first athletics event of these Olympic Games produced a surprise yesterday but there were no shocks in the opening round of the men's 100 metres. After an unrated young walker from Ecuador had become his country's first Olympic medal-winner in any sport, normal order was restored as the sprinters stepped up for a process equivalent to horse racing's parade ring.

The first round is more a time for looking good and talking tough than it is for racing fast. Of the main contenders, only Dennis Mitchell, the United States champion, looked ragged. Linford Christie, Britain's defending Olympic champion, did all he needed to, conceding victory in his heat to Andre Silva, of Brazil, to save that little bit extra for two more rounds and, he hoped, the final today.

At the Borden, the Trinidadian who became world junior champion in 1992, had the most to say. If his prediction proves correct, the final will supplant the 1991 world championship in Tokyo as the greatest 100 metres in history. "There is going to be a world record," Bordon said. "It could be 9.70 or 9.80sec."

The world record, set by Leroy Burrell, of the United States, two years ago, is 9.85sec. Christie's best of 9.87sec was set in 1993 and here he recorded 10.26sec. The wind which followed him was as minimal as the one which accompanied Bordon during his heat, 0.1 metres per second. Bordon recorded 10.06sec, the second-fastest time behind the 10.03sec by Davidson Eadwa, of Nigeria. Bordon's view of Christie was that he would "not run



Christie, third from the left, blasts out of the blocks during his first-round heat yesterday but was content to settle for second place. Photograph: Marc Aspland

under ten seconds". Bordon, though, we should not forget, said in June, while Christie was still dithering, that he did not think he would be here to defend his title. Bordon was third in the world championships in Gothenburg last year at the tender age, for a sprinter, of 21. This season he has improved his best to 9.92sec but expects, on this fast track, to obliterate that.

Bordon, labelled "Atomique" by L'Equipe, the French sportsman, went to the same school as Brian Lara, the cricketer, in Trinidad. Lara holds the world record score for a first-class cricket innings, with 501, and Bordon was a world record too. He said he would give away the gold medal when he wins

here, rather than if. "When I win Olympic gold it will not stay in my home," Bordon said. "It will go to the national stadium in Trinidad to be seen by all the kids." After the season, he said, he wanted to go back to Trinidad to help develop youth athletes.

Donovan Bailey, the world champion from Canada, qualified in 10.24sec, though he has not had the best of preparation. He has been troubled by hip and thigh ailments and, with his favourite uncle dying, he has felt uneasy about not going back home to visit him. However, Bailey put on a determined front after the first round. "I will run whatever it takes to win," he said. "I am not worried about anyone." Bruny Surin, Bailey's fellow

Canadian, who was runner-up at the world championships, was also a comfortable qualifier in 10.18sec, as was the race favourite, Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia, in 10.32sec. It is to be hoped that the

Singing the blues 17
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final is blessed with a favourable wind. The design of the stadium, tall at one end, low at the other, invites capricious winds and readings during the first round changed with almost every heat, from plus to minus and back again. Emmanuel

Tuffour, from Ghana, won the first heat in 10.15sec into a 0.9mps headwind. Eadwa won the second aided by a 1.3mps headwind.

Obadele Thompson, from Barbados, winner of his heat in 10.33sec, knows all about wind advantage. This year he ran the fastest 100 metres ever: 9.69sec. He was helped by a gale blowing behind him and altitude. Britain's other two representatives, Ian Mackie and Darren Braithwaite, progressed with Christie. Mackie looked, briefly, as though he might beat Mitchell in heat six but was second in 10.27sec; Braithwaite was second to Mike Marsh, the third member of the United States team, in 10.29sec. Before the sprinters

emerged, Jefferson Perez won the 20-kilometres walk, improving upon Ecuador's previous best Olympic performance, the fourth place by Jorge Panchama in the 200 metres butterfly in 1972. Perez, 22, is the youngest winner of the title. He finished 33rd in the world championships last year but his winning time here was 14 seconds quicker than his own national record.

For Shaun Pickering, the Olympic experience was brief and expensive but worth the sacrifice. Pickering had only three goes in the shot put before being eliminated, having given up what he described as "one of the top five jobs in the world in sports marketing" to train for a place in Britain's Olympic team.

Estimated salary loss — £100,000.

Pickering has been to most of the world's top sports occasions as manager of events and promotions for Canon, even to winter and summer Olympics, but never as a competitor. Training full-time, he made the team but was unsuccessful in his second ambition of reaching the final. Pickering finished in 27th place, well below his best distance with 13.29 metres. The leading 12 qualified for the final last night. "I have no regrets whatsoever," Pickering said. "The Olympic experience was worth every penny. I am a little bit disappointed with the result because I felt so good but I would not change coming for the world."

Britain consoled itself with hopes of a medal for Graeme Smith in the 1,500 metre freestyle after a morning in which Adam Ruckwood swam below par in the 200 metres backstroke and failed to make the final and the men's 4 x 100 metres medley relay team set a national record of 3min 40.74sec, good enough to qualify in second place for the final, only to find they had been disqualified.

The news was hardest on James Hickman, who clocked a remarkable butterfly split of 52.69sec. However, the takeover between Neil Willey and Richard Maden was 0.02sec quicker than the allowed margin.

Class apart, page 44

England rally after opening misfortune

LORD'S (second day of five): England, with five first-innings wickets standing, are 140 runs behind Pakistan

THERE was reverse swing for Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis and sharp turn for Mushtaq Ahmed at Lord's yesterday, but England will consider that their prospects in the first Cornhill Test suffered not so much through the excellence of these old adversaries as the fallibility of the umpiring.

This second, intriguing day redressed the balance in Pakistan's favour, though not by much. A last-wicket stand of 50 inflated their total to 340 and England, having reached 107 for one, then lost three prime wickets for nine runs before rallying tenaciously in the closing session.

It remains a fine Test match on a good but not uninteresting pitch. The cricket has been gripping and neither side has yet made a conclusive claim for control. What a shame it would be, then, if the result was to be influenced by decisions of the type that dispatched both England openers yesterday.

Umpiring has never been such a thankless job as it is today, when the replaying of contentious incidents on giant public screens is as unforgiving as it is unforgivable. Mistakes will never be eradicated, but both Michael Atherton and Nick Knight will justifiably have harboured a sense of grievance last night after leg-before verdicts that were unarguably wrong.

The ball that dismissed Atherton was missing off stump for both width and height. Knight was banished despite stretching so far forward and across that all three stumps were visible between his legs. Wasim and Waqar

have made cricket balls perform unlikely contortions, but this was giving them credit for the superhuman.

These decisions, the first given by Peter Willey and the other by Steve Bucknor, undermined England's day, which ended with Graham Thorpe dragging them towards parity. At 200 for five, however, there remains a long and uncomfortable road ahead. Let anyone doubted them, Pakistan's three main bowlers showed yesterday they are as formidable as ever.

It was the junior of the bowling quartet, Ata-ur-

Rehman, who caused England their first frustration of the day, accompanying the able Rashid Latif in a last-wicket stand that may prove highly significant. Atherton first had to claim the second new ball and then give it to Ian Salisbury before they could be divided. With Mushtaq in the opposition, however, the last-wicket turn that Salisbury achieved in having Latif caught at slip was as much a cause for concern as relief.

Only 35 minutes batting was left to England before lunch, but the total had rushed to 27 when Atherton perished

in the fifth over. He marched off without a hint of penitence, but the harshly-thwarted ambition of a man yet to make a Test century on this ground will have gnawed at him.

Atherton, interestingly, was fully expecting Wasim and Waqar to be more potent with the old ball, not because he ever went along with the nebulous suspicions held against them but because he respects their ability to impart what has become known as reverse swing. For this reason, he had wanted to use Duke balls, which allegedly swing only when new, while Wasim

had favoured the Reader balls, which respond in older age to the reverse swing technique.

To settle such differences, a toss takes place and Atherton lost it, 24 hours before he lost the toss for choice of innings. Now, this cannot be right. If the make of ball is as important as both teams here believe it to be, surely the matter should be resolved publicly and only after the traditional toss, rather than randomly early when team selection and tactics can be revised.

Atherton was not around to verify his theory, but Knight soon discovered it to be true. GRAHAM CHADWICK REPORT

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Pakistan won toss	
PAKISTAN: First Innings	
Akram: 100 runs, 100 balls, 13 fours, 14 sixes	2
Blundell: 74 runs, 110 balls, 10 fours, 10 sixes	74
Ijaz Ahmed: 10 runs, 11 balls, 1 four, 1 six	1
Inzamam-ul-Haq: 148 runs, 218 balls, 1 six, 19 fours	148
Salim Malik: 7 runs, 12 balls, 1 four	7
Shahid Afridi: 17 runs, 64 balls, 1 four	17
*Wasim: 10 runs, 10 balls, 1 four	10
*Younis: 10 runs, 10 balls, 1 four	10
*Rashid Latif: 11 runs, 11 balls, 4 fours	11
Mushtaq Ahmed: 11 runs, 27 balls, 2 fours	11
Waqar Younis: 4 runs, 14 balls, 1 four	4
Ata-ur-Rehman: 10 runs, 37 balls, 2 fours	10
Extras (b 3, lb 5, nb 3)	11
Total (108.2 overs, 448min)	340
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7 (Speed 4), 2-12 (Speed 8), 3-142 (Inzamam 62), 4-153 (Inzamam 64), 5-209 (Inzamam 102), 6-257 (Inzamam 138), 7-267 (Rashid 6), 8-280 (Rashid 11), 9-280 (Rashid 7)	
BOWLING: Cork 28-100-3 (nb 3, 13 runs, 8-3-25-1, 3-0-26-0, 8-0-21-1, 2-0-3-0, 7-3-25-0), Brown 17-2-78-1 (12 runs, 5-1-25-1, 4-0-18-0, 7-1-30-0, 1-0-0-0), Muttiah 24-8-44-3 (nb 1, 5 runs, 7-3-12-0, 6-2-14-0, 11-3-19-3), Salisbury 12-2-1-42-1 (5 runs, 4-0-18-0, 5-1-17-0, 1-0-1-0, 2-2-0-0), Ealham 21-4-42-1 (nb 1, 4 runs, 11-3-24-0, 6-0-14-1, 4-1-4-0), Hick 6-0-29-1 (1 six, 2 runs, 3-0-10-1, 3-0-16-0)	
Second new ball: 307-9 (26.5 overs) at 11.28pm	

ENGLAND: First Innings	
N V Knight: 51 runs, 113-25-1, 5-1-8-0, Waqar Younis: 14-4-22-2 (nb 1, 5 runs, 5-1-19-0, 6-1-20-2, 3-3-0-0), Mushtaq Ahmed: 28-4-88-1 (7 runs, 6-1-17-0, 18-2-43-1, 4-1-6-0), Ata-ur-Rehman: 16-1-33-1 (nb 1, w 1, 6 runs, 7-1-20-0, 3-0-13-1), Asim Shahid: 3-1-3-0 (one spot)	51
*M A Atherton: 12 runs, 21min, 8 balls, 2 fours	12
A J Stewart: 39 runs, 102 balls, 6 fours	39
G P Thorpe: 43 runs, 142min, 93 balls, 4 fours	43
G A Hick: 4 runs, 20min, 20 balls	4
M A Ealham: 25 runs, 79 balls, 3 fours	25
TR G Russell: 4 runs, 33min, 19 balls	4
Extras (b 7, lb 13, w 1, nb 1)	22
Total (5 wks, 71 overs, 282min)	200
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27 (Knight 14), 2-107 (Stewart 39), 3-107 (Thorpe 0), 4-116 (Thorpe 4), 5-180 (Thorpe 31)	
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 16-4-34-1 (4 runs, 11-3-25-1, 5-1-8-0), Waqar Younis 14-4-22-2 (nb 1, 5 runs, 5-1-19-0, 6-1-20-2, 3-3-0-0), Mushtaq Ahmed 28-4-88-1 (7 runs, 6-1-17-0, 18-2-43-1, 4-1-6-0), Ata-ur-Rehman 16-1-33-1 (nb 1, w 1, 6 runs, 7-1-20-0, 3-0-13-1), Asim Shahid 3-1-3-0 (one spot)	
SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 39-1 (8 overs, 35min; Knight 15, Stewart 4), Total: 112-3 (39 overs, 156min; Thorpe 1, Hick 3)	
Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and P Willey, Third umpire: J W Holder	
Match referee: P L van der Merwe	
TESTS TO COME: Second (Headingley): August 6 to 12 Third (The Oval): August 22 to 26	
Compiled by Bill Fordal	

Hick is bowled by Waqar having contributed just four runs to the England first innings yesterday

He had batted well for more than two hours, but appeared to reach 50 with a reprieve when he misread Mushtaq's googly and edged it through slip.

Knight was already acknowledging the applause when umpire Willey signalled leg-byes and he had not added to his score when Bucknor raised his finger against him, three overs later. It was churlish of Knight to leave the ground without either raising his bat or removing his helmet, but it was an understandable show of emotion.

He was later credited with the two runs and his half-century, but this change of mind by the umpires raises more points than it solves. Presumably, Knight would have been given not out if Sohail had taken the catch. Could that decision have been so easily altered retrospectively? Is there a difference?

The third leg-before decision of the innings, Alec Stewart playing no stroke against Mushtaq's baffling googly, could arouse no resentment, any more than Graeme Hick's dismissal, failing to get his bat down on a yorker from Waqar, could arouse surprise. Hick has now managed only 102 runs in six Test innings against Pakistan.

Mark Ealham arrived amid great tension at 116 for four, but he continues to react well to whatever is asked of him. Although Mushtaq bamboozled him more than once, he countered the seamers with conviction and had added 64 with Thorpe when his concentration lapsed against an innocuously wide one from Rehman. Russell stood firm with Thorpe and much depends on this pair today.

Waqar's return, page 47
Photograph, page 47

swatch

OLYMPIC LEGENDS BY SWATCH

Russia is playing with...

Toll rises in Turkish jail fast

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Russians claim US is playing games with medals table

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

THE Russians have said that America is manipulating the Olympics medals table in a way that smacks of the old Soviet Union.

Russia had won 13 gold medals, one more than the US, by the end of Thursday's competitions, which Russians say could put them at the top of the medals league. But the Olympic table puts the Americans ahead because they had won more medals overall, 32 to Russia's 25.

The American press "suddenly, as if scared by the superiority of the Russian Olympic team in the number of gold medals, decided to count medals in a way more advantageous to the hosts", the Russian *Sports Express* newspaper said.

The Americans never used to behave this way," the newspaper added. "Such odd arithmetic was a characteristic of sport statistics in our country, which had the task, no matter what the outcome, of confirming the advantage of the Soviet way of life."

To be fair, however, the Americans did announce before the Games that this would be their method of compilation. This is the latest manifestation of the Cold War-style tensions between



the two old rivals. Earlier this week, Vladimir Lukin, a former Russian Ambassador to America, said: "Politics always played a leading role at the Olympics, but they have eclipsed all else at these Games. Can you imagine it if Russian tanks and missiles had been wheeled out at the Moscow Olympics? But here US Air Force fighter jets flew over the stadium during the opening ceremony and nothing happened — the celebration just goes on."

Vitali Smirnov, president of the Russian Olympic Committee, said the Americans had no need to finagle the medals

table because they were bound to come out on top in any case as the Games moved into a different gear yesterday with the start of the athletics.

The first event yesterday was that oddity, the men's 20km walk, which started at 8am to avoid the worst of the heat. The event was won by Jefferson Pérez of Ecuador in a fast 1hr 20mins 6secs and collapsed from fatigue.

The thoroughbreds of the track and field events competed almost as much for the admiration of the crowd, it seemed, as they did for athletic excellence. Runners ripped off their singlets on finishing races to pose, torsos naked, in front of the grandstand. Successful highjumpers, among them Steve Smith of Britain, went through a series of celebratory backflips, air punches and, in one case, a prayer of gratitude at having qualified.

The hugging, kissing and self-congratulation was all a far cry from *Chariots of Fire* but the theatre lifted the Games out of the rancour of the opening week, when Atlanta's disorganisation spoiled the Olympic party.

Olympic reports, pages 43-46, 48



Jefferson Pérez of Ecuador collapses after winning the 20km walk yesterday

Training for top gymnastics 'is like child abuse'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KERRI STRUG has become America's sweetheart by clinching an Olympic gold medal with her vault on a sprained ankle, but her celebrity has been clouded by a new warning that the rigorous competitive gymnastics amount to child abuse.

Turning adolescent girls into Olympic champions involves so much training, so many injuries and such intense social isolation that they can put their lives at risk, according to a doctors' report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The authors are specialists in the physical and mental complications of athletics.

President Clinton, who was in Atlanta to watch the Games and met Miss Strug, described her feat as "miraculous". The 18-year-old is 4ft 5in and, like the other teenage gymnasts, has an almost emaciated figure.

The gymnast ensured that America won the team event, but many have questioned the wisdom of her making a second jump, further aggravating her injury. She did so at the urging of her coach, Bela Karolyi, the Romanian doctor who has been described as both an inspiration and a Svengali. But Miss Strug insisted there should be no criticism of him. "I'm 18, I'm an adult and I make my own decisions," she said.

In their report, the doctors give a warning against pushing youngsters to be champions, citing such hazards as eating disorders, skeletal damage and even psychological harm from trying to make pre-pubescent girls look sexy.

The report said that some parents push children to train 40 hours a week and send them to live with coaches. It contended that such intense exercise can delay or stop menstruation, inhibit bone formation and lead to fractures. Repetitive stress on the developing skeletal system can result in permanent harm or deformities.

One of the authors, Barri Katz Stryer, a psychiatrist at the University of California in Los Angeles, is a former gymnast who recalled teammates who forced themselves to compete when injured and became anorexic from trying to hold down their weight.

The findings were dismissed by Dan Benardot, the American gymnastic team's nutritionist, as "dredged up old stuff". He said the health and growth of his country's women gymnasts were monitored closely.

Toll rises in Turkish jail fast

FROM REUTERS IN ANKARA

THE death toll in Turkey's two-month-old hunger strike rose to eight yesterday with the death of the first woman inmate in the protest, the state-run Anatolian news agency said.

The woman, 22, died in Caglakale prison. The agency described her as a member of the urban guerrilla group, the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front.

Earlier yesterday an inmate died in Istanbul's Bayrampaşa jail, Sevket Kazan, the Justice Minister, said. He identified the prisoner as Tahsin Yilmaz, of the Turkish Revolutionary Communist Union, another urban guerrilla group.

About 300 left-wing inmates have been on hunger strike to demand better prison conditions and the closure of Eskişehir jail in western Turkey. Yesterday thousands of Kurdish rebel prisoners joined the hunger strike, a Kurdish news agency reported.

Minority purged in Burma

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESS IN BANGKOK

BURMA'S military junta has forced 70,000 to 75,000 ethnic minority Karens out of their villages and into eight relocation sites without medicine or sufficient food and shelter, Karen sources said yesterday.

More than 100 people have died in the sites in the eastern state of Kayah, a Karen National Progressive Party statement said.

The party appealed to America, the European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations to begin a fact-finding mission and send relief teams before hundreds more die.

Martial law and a 6pm curfew have been imposed on the sites and key towns and curfew violators are shot on sight, a Karen source said by telephone from Thailand, across the border from Kayah. Informed sources in Thailand confirmed that the junta had pushed at least 60,000 people from their homes since late May.

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Civilians take shelter as army closes in on Tigers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ANURADHAPURA, NORTHERN SRI LANKA

THE Sri Lankan Army moved south from its crucial Elephant Pass base in the north last night to confront the Tamil Tigers in the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, one of their last bastions. Tens of thousands of civilians sought shelter in schools, churches and temples from a war that is at its bloodiest in 13 years.

The 100,000-strong armed forces are attempting to crush the rebels in the region south of the Jaffna peninsula, their former stronghold, which fell to the army early this year after months of fighting. These heavily forested areas are in the front line of a war in which 50,000 people have died.

The military is bent on avenging its greatest single defeat when 1,200 soldiers were killed this week in the northeastern base of Mullaitivu, now back under army control. The seizure of Kilinochchi would restore morale as well as return crucial territory to government forces.

The majority Sinhalese community is angry after more than 70 people were

killed in an attack on a commuter train in Colombo, the capital, on Wednesday. The Tigers denied carrying out the bombing, but nobody doubts that they did it.

The denial was for international consumption: the Tigers are worried by their growing isolation because of intransigence in peace talks and increasing attacks on civilians. The Government is making strenuous efforts to prevent a Sinhalese backlash against the Tamil minority, which would play into the Tigers' hands. The latest mili-

tary offensive will attempt to drive the rebels from the Northern Province, where they are hiding in the jungle with weapons they carried during the retreat from Jaffna. Elephant Pass is the isthmus that links the peninsula with the mainland, making it the most crucial base in the north. The Tigers' occupation of the area south of the isthmus forces the military to make detours by sea and air to keep its northern garrisons supplied.

Clearing a road route to Colombo would give the army an enormous tactical advantage. The operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said last night that troops were meeting resistance but were moving forward, backed by superior armour, artillery and air power. Kilinochchi district was placed under a curfew yesterday and civilians were advised to take shelter in schools and other buildings.

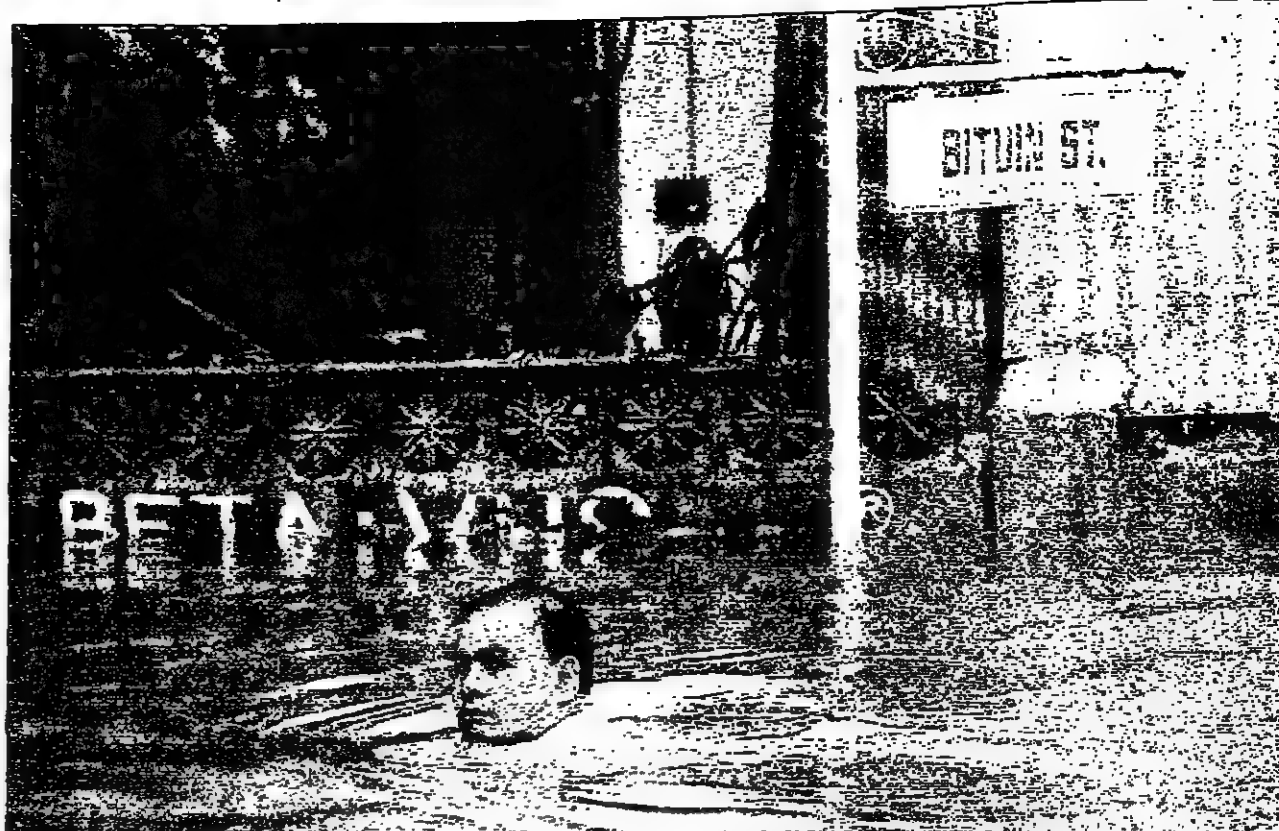
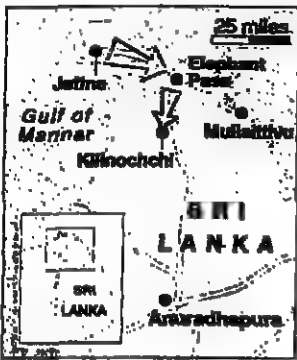
Kilinochchi is host to 100,000 refugees who fled the Jaffna peninsula as troops

swept through the area late last year and early this year. They crossed the Jaffna Lagoon in a flotilla of small boats operated by the Tamil Tigers, but were unable to return because the lagoon is now controlled by the army. They are therefore now subject to attack. By clearing the Tigers out of the Kilinochchi area the armed forces would be able to ferry the civilians home.

Around 400,000 Jaffna Tamils fled the onslaught but most of those able to do so have returned home, bringing them under government jurisdiction for the first time since the Tigers established their headquarters in Jaffna five years earlier and turned it into an independent mini-state.

The civilians' return is a significant success for the Government, since it has removed an important source of finance for the Tigers, who imposed stiff taxes. The armed forces are under strict orders from President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga to treat people kindly to try to ease them away from Tiger influence.

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A flood victim swims to safety in Quezon City yesterday after Typhoon Gloria pounded the Philippines.

The storm left at least 21 people dead and several missing before heading for Taiwan and China (Our Foreign Staff writes).

President Ramos declared a state of emergency in ten provinces in the main

Typhoon Gloria kills 21

Philippines island of Luzon. The Philippine National Red Cross said most of the deaths were caused by landslides and drowning in the mountainous north. About 60,000 people were evacuated from their homes in seven provinces after Gloria

lashed Luzon with 80 mph winds for two days. As the typhoon headed towards China's southeast coast there were fears of more rain in the Yangtze valley, where workers struggled to prevent new floods. More than 1,500 people have

died in flooding across central and southern China in recent weeks. Gloria was bearing down on Taiwan, causing air pollution to reach record levels in Hong Kong as it howled past offshore. Meanwhile floods in Bangladesh and India have killed at least 235 people over the past two weeks.

Tokyo 'powerless' in killer bug fight

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AS THE toll of food poisoning victims in Japan continued to rise, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, yesterday set up a ministerial team to fight the epidemic, which has killed eight people in two months and made thousands ill.

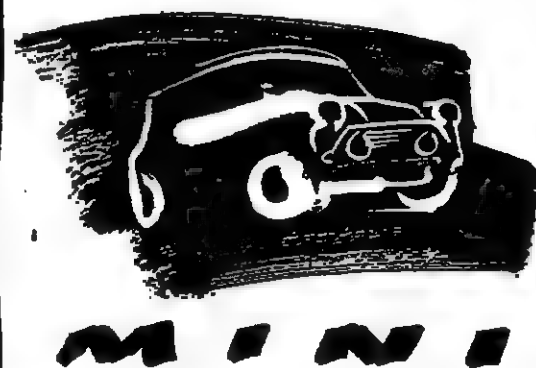
The team admitted, however, that it had little data about the disease and felt powerless to stop its spread.

Last night the Health and Welfare Ministry said 8,548 people in 42 of Japan's 47 prefectures were ill with food poisoning caused by the O157 strain of the *Escherichia coli* bacterium. Of those, 7,893 are schoolchildren, four of whom have died. Worst hit is Sakai, a suburb of Osaka, Japan's second largest city, where 6,449 people, mainly children, have been infected and 69 are

listed as in serious condition. Authorities have traced the Sakai outbreak to school lunches, but not the exact foodstuff. The Kyodo news agency said yesterday that the lunches were kept at room temperature for nearly three hours before being served.

Naoto Kan, the Health and Welfare Minister, told a press conference that the country was grappling with a "very difficult disease". He admitted that medical experts were at a loss over how to treat the illness. All but one of those who have died developed haemolytic uraemic syndrome, which is marked by symptoms that include kidney failure. Doctors say it is difficult to treat people with the syndrome as antibiotics are ineffective.

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CHANGING TIMES

'Astral cult' cave draws disbelief

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

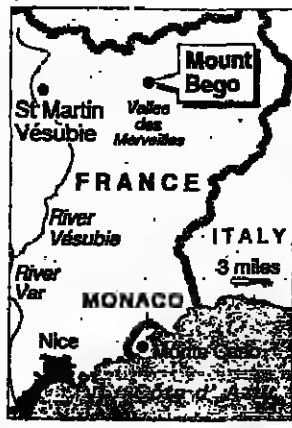
A DISPUTE has erupted within the French scientific community between a researcher who claims to have discovered a remarkable series of prehistoric religious cave paintings in southern France and her critics, who insist that the wall markings are lichen or graffiti left by Second World War refugees.

Emilia Masson, a researcher and religious expert with the National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris, believes the cave on the summit of Mont Bego, 9,000ft above the Vallée des Merveilles north of Nice, was once a centre for a Bronze Age astral cult, the discovery of which

represents a key step forward in understanding prehistoric religion. Wall decorations, including "circles of ochre and small figures of men and animals", indicate that the cave was a shrine for a sun-worshipping religion that embraced the Mediterranean region in the third millennium before Christ, according to Mme Masson.

After four years of research, a paper by Mme Masson was presented to the French National Academy of Sciences last month by Yves Coppens, Professor of Human Palaeontology at the Collège de France, identifying the cave as part of a "vast astral cult". A naturally sculpted "face" on the slopes of Mont Bego appeared to represent "the holiest of holies" to these early worshippers, the academy was told.

Other scientists have poured cold water on Mme Masson's spectacular claims, however, arguing that the vague shapes she has identified on the cave walls are nothing more significant than "lichen and algae". Professor Henry de Lumley, the director of the Muse-



um of Mankind and the Museum of Natural History in Paris, who has explored rock carvings in the region for the past 30 years, is the most vigorous opponent of the theory. "Not a single thing by the hand of man can be observed there," Professor de Lumley says.

The professor's associates have described Mme Masson as "a fantasist who reads in a crystal ball to make people dream, a dilettante mistaking lichen for red paint".

Xavier Guthertz, the regional conservationist for the Aix-en-Provence region and responsible for overseeing the site, maintains that the marks

are genuine carvings but could be of much more recent origin. "The inscriptions are well and truly there, but they may also be the work of Italian soldiers who took refuge in the cave during the Second World War," he said.

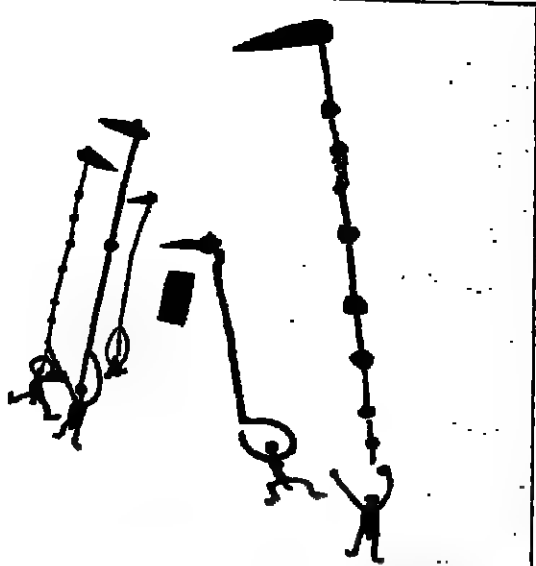
Mme Masson insists that "ochre pigments" from the walls have been scientifically identified by the Research Laboratories of the Museums of France, as well as red colours, fibres and lichen. The Institute of Particle Physics in Zurich has also carried out tests using a spectrograph, she says, and discovered "the presence of iron oxides and silicates" typical of the pigments used by Bronze Age religious artists.

The furious disagreement has been dubbed the "scientific war of religion" by the French press.

Professor de Lumley has demanded action against Mme Masson for encroaching on scientific territory, while yesterday she alleged that the museum director was trying to undermine her research out of professional jealousy. In an effort to mediate, M Guthertz asked this week for independent experts to carry out a study.



A researcher emerges from the cave at Mont Bego



Sketches by Emilia Masson of the cave markings, which she claims are prehistoric

Italians in bid to save embryos

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

A ROMAN Catholic anti-abortion group has found more than 100 Italian women who are prepared to adopt frozen British embryos otherwise destined for destruction, a spokesman for the group said yesterday.

"We have a list of 100 women from this area and we are receiving more requests from women all over Italy who want to adopt an embryo," said Dr Mario Ciampi, the chairman of the Centre for Help to Life in the region of Massa Carrara, in northwest Italy.

More than 3,300 embryos held in deep freeze in London clinics are due to be destroyed on Wednesday. British law forbids the preservation of frozen embryos for more than five years without the parents' consent. "Even if they are refrigerated, they are important lives that cannot just be destroyed," said Dr Ciampi.

He said his organisation, which has links with the British anti-abortion charity LIFE, wanted the Italian Government to put pressure on Britain to halt the "massacre". Among the women who had offered to adopt an embryo were two elderly nuns, he said. "Their bodies may be too old but their hearts are big enough."

Adoptions plan for Internet

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THOUSANDS of Rio de Janeiro's "street children" will be put up for adoption through the Internet, and users around the world will be able to make their adoption requests electronically.

The cyberspace adoption plan, which aims to attract couples in Europe and America, was launched yesterday by a group of judges in Brazil in an attempt to crack down on the illegal sale of children and the killing of youngsters by organ traffickers.

The service will begin next month and it is hoped that the photographs and details of at least 4,800 children, in orphanages or on the streets of Rio, will be on the Internet by the end of the year.

"We will... have more control over adoption procedures which have always been in the hands of gangs who sell children illegally," Judge Jose Lisboa da Gama Malcher said.

Some 70 children were adopted legally in Brazil last year but human rights organisations say that hundreds are taken out of the country illegally every year.

Most groups working with children have welcomed the initiative, but critics have said it could institutionalise the selling of needy children.

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		£2,500-£4,999	2.65%	2.12%			£10,000-£24,999	3.85%	-
		£5,000-£9,999	2.90%	2.32%			£25,000-£49,999	4.30%	-
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		£500-£2,499	2.45%	1.96%			£50,000-£99,999	5.50%	4.40%
		£2,500-£4,999	2.65%	2.12%			£100,000+	5.75%	4.60%
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		£10,000-£24,999	3.30%	2.64%					
		£25,000+	3.70%	2.96%					
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**If you have not yet received a statement, details will be sent to you shortly. If your account was opened after 23rd June 1996 your terms will be varied from 14th October 1996.

N&P branches will close at 5pm Friday 2nd August and open again as Abbey National branches at 9am Monday 5th August. N&P Cashcards will not work in any N&P Link cashpoints from 5pm Friday 2nd August or any other Link cashpoints from 7pm Friday 2nd August. You can use your new Abbeylink Card from 9am Monday 5th August.

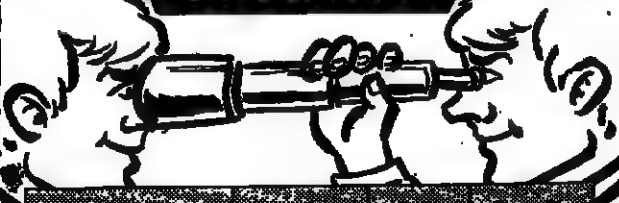
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Spanish brothers revive memories of Russian Front after vow to dying grandmother

Lost uncle reopens old wounds

WHEN two brothers from Toledo began looking for the body of their uncle three years ago, they did not realise that they would one day be at the head of a campaign which has reopened wounds from the Second World War, pitted proud generals against dogged bureaucrats, made retired fascists incandescent with rage, and earned them several pleading letters a week from little old ladies in every corner of Spain.

In January 1972, Fernando and Miguel Angel Garrido Polonio, then barely teenagers, promised their dying grandmother that they would find the remains of their uncle, Mariano Polonio Labrado — her son, their mother's older brother — who had died on the Russian Front in 1942, aged 20.

But what had Corporal Polonio been doing in Russia in the first place? Had Spain not been neutral during the world war? In searching for answers to these questions,

TOLEDO FILE
by TUNKU
VARADARAJAN



Miguel Garrido: gave pledge as teenager

the Garrido brothers learnt some lessons about their country's own history.

Their uncle had volunteered to fight on the Russian Front as part of the Spanish Division Azul (Blue Division). Imbued with a burning anti-communism, Corporal Polonio had thrown himself into "a sacred crusade" against the Bolsheviks, fighting with 18,000 other Spaniards on the side of the Wehrmacht. Nearly 5,000 of them died in the war against the Russians.

Since all of them lie in unmarked graves in a vast swathe of territory around Novgorod, the Garrido brothers quickly realised that, unless they had more infor-

mation than the ragged telegram informing the family of Corporal Polonio's death on May 31, 1942, their uncle's remains were but a rusted needle in the haystack of history. Dogged research, however, led them to an ex-divisionary, who had kept a detailed diary of his 12 months on the Russian Front. It revealed that only one soldier from the close-knit Blue Division had died on May 31, 1942 — at Chutyni, a village four miles north of Novgorod. The brothers had "found" their uncle.

In 1993 they made their first visit to Chutyni, visiting all the cemeteries in the region. By their second visit, two

years later, they realised they needed much more precise information. Returning to Spain, they trawled for months through the military archives in Avila — neglecting their legal practice in Toledo — until they stumbled upon a crude map of 20 graves, marked "Chutyni", with a number against each one. The brothers appealed on television for help. By a stroke

of fortune, the family of a sergeant who had died near Chutyni contacted them. They had, it seems, the other half of the "Chutyni map", with the key to each grave: number nine was Corporal Polonio's.

The brothers leave for Russia next week. Meanwhile, they have started a campaign to bring back the remains of all Spanish soldiers who died in Russia. They have received hundreds of letters from widows and descendants of divisionaries, many asking for help to find the remains of "the soldier from the family who went to Russia".

Senior army generals are on their side, and there is talk of an Arlington-style memorial in Aljibes, near Toledo, to "all the Spanish dead, even those who fought alongside the Russian Army". Yet there is opposition. The Ministry of Defence would prefer any memorial to be in Russia. Sixty years after the start of the Civil War, disintering Blue Division warriors could raise more than the dust of Novgorod.

But the most bitter antagonists are the surviving divisionaries. A hard core of the Brotherhood of the Blue Division has stated that its dead should be left in Russia. One of them went so far as to warn the brothers that it would be sacrilege to bring their comrades back to the "Red Spain of today".

caravan if need be, but go to Toledo, Madame, go to Toledo". Yet today's residents are leaving in droves. A study has predicted that scarcely anyone will live in the old city centre by 2005. What was a medieval Manhattan is unsuited to modern Spaniards. Philip II, who moved court from Toledo to Madrid in 1561, was clearly prescient.

Heritage succumbs to modern life and death

IT HAS been a poignant week for Toledo. Samuel Toledano, the president of the Spanish Jewish Community, died. Descended from a 15th-century grand rabbi, he embodied the city's Jewish dimension, once dominant but now all but disappeared. Traces of the country's Jewish past survive in some surnames. Toledano, or Toledan, is one.

The name is regarded as proof that the person is descended from conversos, Jews who responded to the threat of the Reconquest ("Your religion or your life") by taking refuge in Roman Catholicism.

"If you ever go to Spain and visit Madrid," wrote Alexandre Dumas, "hire a carriage, find a coach, wait for a

Rumours rife as Yeltsin stays away

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW



Yeltsin: believed to have suffered a minor stroke

THE continuing absence from the Kremlin of President Yeltsin has fostered an atmosphere of dark political intrigue that bodes ill for his new term even before he is inaugurated.

The President is taking what is publicly described as a "holiday" but is widely assumed to be a course of medical treatment in a sanatorium at Barvikha outside Moscow. He has not been seen in a spontaneous setting for more than a month. On television he looks tired and puffy. Although he is not noticeably ill, the strain of the election campaign has clearly taken its toll.

The longer he stays out of

public view the more the Moscow rumour-mill speculates about his health. "Do you think he will last until the inauguration? Or will it take place in Barvikha?" one Member of Parliament said mischievously last week. There is a widespread belief that he suffered a minor stroke last month and will take some time to recover fully.

The inauguration is due to take place in Cathedral Square in the Kremlin. All the heads of state of the former Soviet republics that make up the Commonwealth of Independent States have already said they will attend. It now seems clear that Mr Yeltsin's doctors are trying to make him

look in good form for the ceremony. There is no question of him travelling to the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games in Atlanta and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, will probably go instead.

In scenes reminiscent of the early 1980s, when the Soviet Union was ruled by a group of ever more decrepit General Secretaries of the Communist Party, daily television reports show ministers and aides making the trek to Barvikha to talk to Mr Yeltsin. This looks set to become a pattern for Mr Yeltsin's second term, in which he can be expected to disappear increasingly from public view.

Token change on the Metro

Moscow: Muscovites are having to face a new trauma this month with the abolition of the Metro token (Thomas de Waal writes).

For more than 30 years the Metro has had one of the simplest and most effective systems in the world. Put a plastic zheton in the machine, wait a moment for the light to turn green and you pass into the dark splendours of the Metro, to travel as long and as far as you like. From this month the zhetons are being replaced by magnetic cards.

There will be turnstiles and the cost of a ticket will reflect the length of a journey. The change is aimed at stopping fare dodging — as the zhetons are easily forged.

Eta kills businessman who resisted extortion

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

GUNMEN from Eta shot dead a Spanish businessman yesterday at Ordizia, near San Sebastián in northern Spain, apparently because he had refused to pay the Basque separatist group a "revolutionary tax".

Isidro Usabiaga, the owner of a local construction company, was shot several times in the head, back and abdomen as he returned home at dawn after celebrating with friends at a local fiesta.

Businesses in the Basque region are frequently the object of extortion by Eta. There have been numerous instances of violence against

those who have refused to pay the so-called tax.

Señor Usabiaga, 56, a father of three, had received death threats on several occasions. After his murder, Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Spanish Interior Minister, praised him for his "civic duty and honour" in defying Eta extortion.

Yesterday's murder confirms that, despite recent arrests and setbacks, Eta remains determined to continue with its summer of terror in Spain.

Twenty-four British tourists have been injured in a campaign of violence which began a fortnight ago.

West Bank sealed off after two killings

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government yesterday sealed off the West Bank and ordered an all-out search for Arab guerrillas after gunmen killed two Israelis and critically wounded a third in a night-time drive-by shooting.

The incident, southwest of Jerusalem, was the second drive-by shooting in the past two months in Israel.

In the latest attack, a 60-year-old man and his 25-year-old daughter-in-law died when their car was riddled with bullets. The woman's husband was also critically wounded and his mother treated for shock. Israeli soldiers and police set up road blocks, but the gunmen were thought to have fled to the West Bank, where more than a million Palestinians live.

The Government said the security forces had been given a free hand to track down those responsible, but it was unclear whether they had actually been ordered to enter Palestinian-controlled areas within the West Bank. "There will be no compromise in anti-terrorism actions or limitations on the action of our security forces," said a government statement, issued after the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, called on Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, to do all in his power to stop Palestinian militants attacking Israeli citizens. "We demand the Palestinian Authority act to quash the terror of the terrorist organisations, without distinction," Mr Netanyahu said. He also ordered that unspecified new measures be taken to bolster security in the area where the attack occurred.

Mr Arafat replied that he had no information about the attackers, and condemned Israel for punishing all Palestinians by shutting off the West Bank. The closure prevented thousands of Palestinians from reaching their workplaces in Israel.

Mr Arafat's media adviser, Mr Nabil Abu Rdainah, said: "The Israeli closure of the West Bank is a barbaric act, a provocation, and an act of revenge."



Mariano Polonio: volunteered for "sacred crusade"

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ROCK BOTTOM

The musical Veyeurz opened to resounding boos, but the costumes are scene stealers

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OPINION

Never mind the athletes, it's the national anthems that make the Olympics special

THEATRE

Niamh Cusack excels as the RSC stages Molière's *The Learned Ladies* in Stratford

THE TIMES ARTS

ON MONDAY

Bryan Adams at Wembley, and the weekend's Proms: read Britain's best critics in *The Times*

NEXT WEEK

Summer snapshots: how do the top tourist attractions measure up in their busy season?

You probably think that there is quite enough coverage of the Olympics already, without the wretched stuff invading the sacred turf of the arts page. Well, in a sense that is true. If you must have details of medal prospects in the bearded ladies' steroid-swallowing final, turn to our sports section (pages 40 to 9,428).

But this is the column that gets to the essentials. Yes, readers, I mean the national anthems. I love them. Actually I love everything about the medal ceremonies: the flags, the bouquets, the presentations by such luminaries as the deputy vice-president of the Ukraine Volleyball Federation. The only sad thing about the ceremonies, in fact, is the sport in between. Can't they cut that out? It really slows down the action.

For national anthem fans, the Olympics are invaluable. Where else (except in Andorra, of course) can you hear the stirring words of the Andorran hymn?

The great Charlemagne from the Saracens liberated me.

Great songs, shame about the sport

And from heaven he gave me Meritall the great Mother. You have to admit, it's cracking stuff. I keep Cassell's indispensable *National Anthems of the World* by the telly. Then, when a medal ceremony comes along, I can quickly find the relevant page and join in — because for some reason they never put the words of anthems up on the screen.

Some people think that national anthems are all superficial pomp. That's nonsense. You can tell a lot about a nation from its anthem. Some reflect an obsession with a defining moment — usually a battle or revolution. The *Star-Spangled Banner* is the most famous example, but Cambodia's ditty has its stirring moments too: *Hurrah for the 17th of April! That wonderful victory had more significance Than the Angkor period!*

Which of us could argue with that? And I long for the day when a proud athlete from the central African state of Burkina wins a gold medal, so that we can all join in a lusty chorus of:

Against the humiliating bondage of a thousand years. Against the cynical malice Of neo-colonialism and its petty local servants.

Many gave in, but some resisted. Such historical reminiscences are traditionally accompanied by wild exhortations for men to fling themselves into battle and not return until they have lost a leg, or at least a few fingers. After all, as the Congo national anthem puts it: *And if we have to die What does it really matter?* Contrast that with the gentleness of Tagore's lyrical verses, now adopted as Bangladesh's national anthem:



RICHARD MORRISON

In spring, O mother mine, The fragrance of your mango groves Makes me wild with joy. Musically, national anthems divide into four categories, usually

depending on the colonial background of the country concerned. The countries of the former British Empire often have tunes resembling Victorian hymns: slow, noble and dreary. France gave her former colonies a taste for tunes that resemble Foreign Legion bugle-calls; while most of Latin America's national anthems sound like had Verdi opera arias — and in one or two cases actually are. Latin America also boasts the longest anthems, with Brazil's running to a Wagnerian 112 bars. But then, it's a big country.

Finally, there are the moody, minor-key, "life is tough and it's going to get a lot worse" tunes. The old Communist bloc was the world leader in these, but Israel's is also a classic of the genre.

Some national anthems are triumphs of diplomacy. The Swiss anthem has five verses: one in each

national language. And when Czechoslovakia divided into two countries, the national anthem was also split down the middle. Very civilised, and very different from the Malaysian Government, which pinched a popular song as its national anthem — and then unsportingly banned anyone from singing the original lyrics.

Even in our comparatively relaxed Western democracies, those who treat national anthems irreverently do so at their peril. Until quite recently America had a law preventing anybody from altering the words, tune, harmony or orchestration of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Even Stravinsky had his knuckles rapped when he mildly spiced it up. That explains the shock waves when Jimi Hendrix dragged the poor old *Banner* backwards through an electronic hedge at Woodstock.

Similarly, Benjamin Britten's version of God save the Queen, which sounds like Chopin's *Funeral March* without the jokes, caused great agitation when it was first heard. As for Tchaikovsky's frisky debunking of *La Marseillaise* — well, you don't hear 1812 played much in Paris.

It doesn't look as if we will be singing God save the Queen very often in these Olympics, does it? Never mind: we do in fact share the same tune as Liechtenstein. So, in the event of our central European friends producing a super-heavyweight pasty-hurling Olympic champion, here is *The Times*' special singalong word-sheet for that familiar tune:

*Oben am jungen Rhein
Lehnet sich Liechtenstein
An Alpenhöhn.
Dies liebe Heimatland,
Das teure Vaterland,
Hat Gottes weise Hand
Für uns ersch'n.*

Now that's something that you won't read on the sports pages.

We shouldn't laugh, but ...

Halfway through Molière's *Learned Ladies* an attractive young woman makes this ringing declaration: "It is offering our sex too great an insult to insist that the scope of our intelligence extend no further than to judge of a petticoat or the head of a mangle, the beauties of lace or a new brocade." Even the Shakespeare who composed a classic speech of submission for the housebroken Katherine would have agreed with that. But Molière, writing a century later in the world's most sophisticated city, makes it clear that such sentiments are offences against nature, good order and the rights of men.

An article in the programme mounts an apologia for the piece, suggesting that it is about the sociology of the Paris salon at a time of change. Maybe so. But this does not prevent it being a more reactionary comedy than *The Taming of the Shrew*, a play that, even without the spurious twists modern directors give it, does attribute strength and a certain fineness to its rebel heroine. Molière's genteel bluestockings are de-luded puritans or dangerous fools or both. And, just to add to the offence, the play is undeniably funny.

Steven Fimlon's production makes it instantly obvious where our sympathies should lie. Jane Gurnett's sweet, demure Henriette, who plans to marry the courtier Clitandre, gently informs her disbeliev-

THEATRE

The Learned Ladies
Other Place, Stratford

ing sister Armande that heart and home are enough. Niamh Cusack's sharp, sly Armande, who long ago rejected Clitandre for books, reproaches her for being a slave to men and the flesh, but inadvertently betrays the fact that she wants to keep her old admirer permanently dangling on her emotional hook. It is a wryly observed, finely acted scene, and others are to follow.

In *salis* Alison Fiske as the young women's Aunt Belise, whose magnificently unassailable conviction is that half Paris is dying for the sexual favours she is too high-minded to give. She is followed by a still more majestically absurd figure, Caroline Blakiston's Philaminte, who is the girls' mother and thinks of herself as a feminist Plato, but more profound than the original. With Belise and Armande she then proceeds to fete Trissotin, a bad poet on the make, in Roger Allam's performance a dough-faced creep heaving and wincing with self-love. The scene in which these "learned ladies" transform themselves into his groupies, repeating his doggerel like a mantra and subjecting the worst of it to Ermpsonian analysis, is irresistible.



In the line of *Learned Ladies*: (left to right) Jane Gurnett, Alison Fiske, Niamh Cusack and Caroline Blakiston

So much for the playwright's determination to gild the mildest attempt to rebalance the gender scales. What of the plot? That is standard Molière, involving Philaminte's plan to wrest Henriette from Clitandre, who is as eligible and honest as chaps with names like

Clitandre always are, and bestow her on Trissotin, here a proper as well as a money-grubber. But it brings more fun than usual, thanks to the shamefaced bluster and truculent tics of John Quayle as a husband unable to stand up to his powerful wife. The company uses A.R.

Walker's simple prose translation, arguing, maybe rightly, that it makes the play more immediate than Anglicising Molière's verse; but Fimlon is surely wrong to update the costumes from 17th to 20th-century in the second half, for it only emphasises how dated the sexual politics are. Making

the lone scene-shifter a media clown is also a mistake, and the Cole Porterish songs that introduce each act add little. But, oh dear, I enjoyed much of the evening. I shouldn't have, but I did.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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Rising stars in the arts firmament

HELEN SCHLESINGER

Profession: Actress

Age: 29

Currently playing: At the National in *War and Peace*, Shared Experience's bold vision of Tolstoy's novel. Schlesinger is an unforgettable, religiously fervent, love-deprived Maria, combining burning intensity with rigorous self-control.

Recalled: Both Shared Experience and the National know when they are on to a good thing. Schlesinger was previously the adult Maggie in Shared Experience's *Mill on the Floss*. She was also possibly the best Sheila Birling, the rich daughter who breaks ranks, in Stephen Daldry's recent *An Inspector Calls*.

Where she started: Schlesinger grew up near Windsor, the child of an English lecturer and psychiatric social worker. Her parents also took her to the theatre from an early age. When she went up to Oxford to read English, she thought she might become a journalist. "But I was caught up in acting," she says.

Any heroines? "Judi Dench. She's passionate and witty at once and, in everything she does, she gives more than 100 per cent. That's what's thrilling."

Hopes: "I'd love to do Chekhov," she says, surely a Masha in the making. "The brilliance of his plays, and Shakespeare's, is that you are neither in a tragedy nor a farce but a truly complex character living life as it is, wonderful and awful. I'd love to be in a musical, too."

On herself: "I take life quite seriously. But I feel quite happy with myself, too."

The pros and cons of acting: "In six months' time, you might be doing absolutely anything," she says. "Or, in six months' time, you might be doing absolutely nothing." Probably not in her case.

KATE BASSETT

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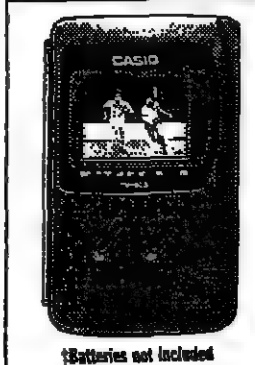
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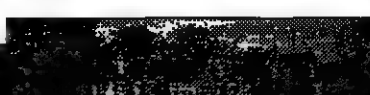
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Whoever wins the election will have to decide whether to replace the pound with the euro within a few weeks, says John Redwood

A single currency won't wait

The timetable for European Monetary Union (EMU) is closing in. Whoever wins a May election, it would mean putting crucial legislation into the Queen's Speech of the new Parliament. The Cabinet would have to agree to make the Bank of England independent by legislation. Parliament's approval to opt into the single currency would be needed. All this would have to happen within a month or two of an election, in order to be able to opt in by the end of 1997. The EU will take its decision on which countries are to be the first to join during the early weeks of 1998.

It is difficult to see how Britain could go through an election campaign with both leading parties saying that the single currency issue will be settled later, when everyone knows that the decision would have to be taken by the new Cabinet within days of the election result being known. What would either party leader learn between early May and the end of May that they do not already know? The nature of the single currency plan is written down in the Treaty. The details of how the currency will work in practice will only become

clearer when the new European central bank is up and running. If you want to influence something, you need to know your own mind. It is untrue that we can only influence the plan if we stay committed to the possibility of joining the currency as soon as it is established. Britain will remain a member of the committee considering the details of EMU. Like all the other member states, the UK has no further chance to influence the main outlines, because they are in the Treaty and are not being renegotiated. We can all have our say on the wide range of secondary legislation that will be needed.

Abolishing the pound represents a serious threat to any party that tries it. A Major Government would find a large number of Conservatives in strong opposition to it. It could only be carried with Opposition votes. In the face of ministerial resignations, the referendum campaign that would ensue would see Conservative pitted

against Conservative. On the present showing of the opinion polls the sceptics would win, and the very future of the Government would be brought into question for recommending something which the electorate rejected. A significant number of Labour MPs would oppose any such move to the bitter end. A Blair government would have to rely on wayward Conservative votes to deliver it.

There are those who suggest that there are two warring factions in both Labour and Conservatives, and that it is equally conceivable that either party could recommend joining or not joining the single currency. These commentators ignore the asymmetry of the position. If the governing party decides against joining there is no need for any contentious legislation. There would be no all-night sittings to fight through a difficult constitutional measure line by line, no need for deals with opposition parties, no need to go fishing for votes in

unlikely waters. It is doubtful if either party in opposition would table a motion about it, as that would only highlight their own divisions. Conversely, if either decided to go ahead with EMU, there would be vote after vote that would weaken the Government's authority. Maastricht would look like a playground fight compared to the *Somme* of the single currency.

In the meantime our partners are far from idle or undecided. Both Germany and France, in their different ways, are committed to the scheme. Knowing their own minds, they are telling their businesses to prepare. Germany has information lines for people to ring to hear of the plans for the new currency. Around the European tables, the German Government insists that political union is the price of monetary union, that Germany's own contribution to the Community is too large, and that the new currency must have many of the characteristics of the DM.

The Bundesbank has said that any applicant should be in the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM). If you wish to join the single currency, first you must establish yourselves as good members of the exchange rate club, as the Treaty says.

France is also keen to put the rest of the EU into an ERM with the new currency, rightly seeing that countries outside the scheme could have a competitive advantage, to the cost of the French economy. France wants to protect its position before the damage is too big and too permanent. It will demand other types of protection, too, if the euro is brought in. With one in eight already out of work as a result of the policy, the French Government knows there will be trouble ahead if it does not achieve some protection for French jobs.

The British people are slowly waking up to the magnitude of the change. Sold originally as a welcome commission-free traveller's cheque, people now begin to see

The Lords gives better value than the Commons, says Alice Thomson

It's not the peers who need reform

As Parliament rises for the long recess, it is a sobering thought that the next parliamentary year may be the last in which hereditary peers will sit in the Lords. Yet the Labour politicians so eager to abolish this legislative anachronism should pause: perhaps it is not the "erroneous dustbin" that requires reform, but its democratic next-door neighbour, the House of Commons.

The Lower Chamber is in danger of becoming little more than a tourist site to be fitted in between Big Ben and Westminster Abbey. It is increasingly sparsely populated. Ministerial careers are made with the Dimblebys, not at the dispatch box, and backbenchers prefer to stand in the rain being interviewed for television rather than debate in the centrally-heated chamber.

Wander over to the red baize undemocratic end of the Palace, however, and the Lord Chancellor's woolsack has become one of Westminster's hotspots. Those who suggest that this is a last gasp of activity from a doomed institution have missed the point. In the run-up to the general election, their lordships are moving to fill the vacuum left by the Commons, where free debate is stifled by the party hierarchies. The Government, determined to rush through legislation in case there is an early election, has launched five of its Bills, including the most controversial, in the Lords.

Zimmer frames have been cast aside in favour of serious scrutiny of the minutiae of Bills, or good old-fashioned political intrigue — more interesting retirement hobbies than gardening. Last year, on average, 380 peers attended every day, split equally between the 750 hereditaries and 300 life peers. They pored over every detail of the Broadcasting Bill and overturned the Government's policy of conceding many big sporting events to satellite television. They also ambushed the Government's plans for nursery education vouchers and tried to water down the Asylum Bill. With nine major rebellions since Christmas, both hereditary and life peers are enjoying fleeing their ageing muscles.

Their seniority is, indeed, a plus: most peers do not like speaking without having some knowledge; nor are they interested in promotion. Moral issues such as the much-amended Family Law Bill fascinate them. Lords debates are

still places for them to make up their minds. Nor do peers have any interest in vulgar publicity.

Peers can be predictable. Landowners' rights are upheld and gamebirds saved from European interference. But they have also introduced backbench initiatives to scrap tipping, outlaw sex tourism and uphold medical confidentiality. Peers achieve all this with relatively little support. Unlike MPs, few peers have offices and so they can't follow debates on television while dictating letters to their secretaries, but have to go and listen in person. Most peers are a bargain. For each day they attend the Lords, they get £138.50. There are some peers who use the cash for a decent lunch and spend the afternoon snoozing. But the Commons and the European Parliament at Strasbourg have similar culprits — at much larger salaries.

Recent changes to both Houses have served only to accentuate the growing disparity. The Jopling reforms in the Commons, designed to help young MPs with children, have ended all-night sittings and many debates on Fridays.

In the Lords, it was assumed that most peers were grandparents and no longer needed to read bedtime stories to their offspring. As a result they regularly keep going after ten o'clock and on Fridays their debates are far better attended than those in the Commons.

Journalists are slowly cottoning on to the influence that the newly-energised Lords now wield. There are sometimes ten reporters in the Upper House and only five left in the Lower Chamber. Tourists have to be prised away from the Lords, but in the Commons they are bored within minutes.

This is not to argue that there is no life left in the Commons. Prime Minister's Question Time, the bear pit of British politics, is watched by viewers from Hong Kong to Alabama. But away from such set-piece events, many of the debates are dreary affairs.

Some Labour peers are beginning to wonder whether the Upper House should be tampered with when it is clearly working. Elected politicians, who seem determined to meddle with their sister chamber, should consider that the greater the prominence they give to the Lords, the more impressive it looks in comparison to their own tired talking shop.

Joe Klein and his white lie

America is in turmoil after the author of *Primary Colors* is rumbled

You told a lie, an odious damned lie! Upon my soul, a lie, a wicked lie." The word has such delicious potency that we hardly dare use it. The House of Commons bans it. It is forbidden to children. But when a lie is palpable and public, we seize it gleefully and roll it round our tongues. "Liar!" is the ultimate accusation. Truth is so precious that we dress its opposite in Satan's weeds. If Desdemona lied, she must die.

Hence the turmoil that this week consumed America's journalists and delighted its politicians. One of Washington's most senior columnists, Joe Klein, told a bare-faced lie. He denied authorship of the "anonymous" *Primary Colors*, top of world bestseller lists. When challenged, he continued the denial. "For God's sake, I didn't write it," he told *The New York Times*. He lied to colleagues on *Newsweek* magazine and CBS television. He lied to the great Dan Rather on screen, normally enough to make Mount Rushmore erupt. The only

already on its way to Hollywood, with Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson vying to play the Stanton/Clintons.

Mr Klein was first fingered as author by a textual analyst. He denied it vehemently and berated the analyst's professionalism. Two weeks ago a handwriting expert saw an annotated typescript of the book and repeated the charge in *The Washington Post*. Now there was no doubt. Mr Klein summoned a press conference and confessed. What to him had been a white lie, a trivial denial of a light-hearted work of satire, was suddenly white no more. With little else to distract it, American journalism embarked on a long, dark night of the soul. At such moments, the Spanish Inquisition can seem like a comedy routine.

Mr Klein's professional colleagues fell on him. He has tainted us all, thundered *The New York Times*, despite his having tainted nobody but himself. *The Washington Post* took up the cry: "Journalists rely on trust. Lying erodes that trust." The editor of *The Columbia Journalism Review* believed that seekers after truth cannot be purveyors of lies: "He compromised his ethics in order to maximise his profits." (God forbid that such temptation should ever cross the mind of an American university.)

Mr Klein's initial response was robust. He was just "protecting a source," the source being himself. There were apparently two Mr Kleins in the case, the anonymous author and the famous journalist. They were tugged by what he called "two different ethical systems": those of publishing and journalism, of anonymity and fame, presumably of mendacity and truth. He wanted to keep them distinct.

If he owned up, he writes in the current *Newsweek*, "my whole life would be different, the celebrity, the impact on my family... I didn't want that." As for his media critics, "The overzealous, bloodthirsty, witless pursuit over a very trivial matter does far more damage to journalism than anything I have done." American politicians, long victims of Mr Klein's pen, are falling about with glee.

Last week Mr Klein changed his tune. The matter was suddenly serious. His jobs with *Newsweek*



Joe Klein flourishes a Groucho Marx disguise as he reveals himself as author of *Primary Colors*

and CBS were on the line and he was threatened with relegation to the ranks of Hollywood potboiler writers. He was duly contrite. Ghostbuster became wimp. At a press conference that might have been scripted by Woody Allen, he admitted that he had all along "felt uneasy about my little white lies". Deciding to continue with them had been "a tough call". He added, "I couldn't sleep, I couldn't eat, I kept drinking water, but felt dehydrated."

The insomnia and dehydration were master strokes. American professions love being told that their work is fraught with ethical dilemma, and possibly a health risk. Let the world know that we lie awake at night, cried the penitent Mr Klein, dehydrated in the struggle to tell truth from lies. He then went one better. He was advised by his *Newsweek* employers to face his colleagues in a group therapy session, to tell them that he wanted to "hear the full force of your concerns, your confusion, your anger". That the staff were glorying in the publicity and loved seeing a bigwig columnist brought low was a suggestion beneath contempt.

The *Washington Post* reported that "with tears in his eyes and his voice cracking, Klein apologised to the staff." A top editor reacted: "He was genuinely tortured. It was extremely emotional and pretty wrenching to sit through... but this is what people have been waiting for." The company remarked that he would not be fired — he was now an even more famous columnist — but he "must sort out the complex issues of how his fiction and nonfiction roles can co-exist". Quite so.

I am afraid most British journalists would by now be lying on the floor holding their sides with laughter. To be sure, their stock in trade is exposing mendacity among the powerful. But the definition of mendacity is always moot. Politicians are adept at concealment, distortion and half-truth in matters of government. The media is bad at uncovering such falsehood, so it finds proxies in a politician's private life. He may be a liar in his conduct of government, but in his private life he must be above reproach or the world will want to know. You may lie about public borrowing but not about dinner with your secretary.

But journalists? Mr Klein may be a bizarre mixture of talent and greed, but I cannot believe he is the more deceptive or partial columnist for lying about *Primary Colors*. Dr Johnson deceived his readers in his fabricated reporting of Parliament, and worried over it to his death.

When he wrote a satire on the government of the day, entitled "London", he did so anonymously, lying to his publisher that it was by a penniless friend in need of cash. Only when it was praised by Pope did Johnson come clean.

The essence of anonymity is mild deception. Mr Klein's problem was not that he lied — his lie was "white" and victimless — but that he lied to his colleagues, whose claimed profession is truth. Such deception has been known even in the best regulated professions. Many of the best stories in British newspapers begin with a modest lie. But a grand liar is well-advised to orchestrate his own climbdown. He should know when to turn turtle and confess. Mr Klein did not, a case of poor judgment rather than mendacity.

What matters is that we can tell a white lie from a black one. The former was first defined in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1741: "Ladies of the Highest Quality... accept that some lies are not intended to injure somebody in Fortune, Interest or Reputation, but only to gratify the itch of amusing People by telling them Wonderful Stories." That is *Primary Colors* to a T. But Mr Klein has been rumbled. Honour is satisfied. The smug are smug, the rich are rich. I bet they all live happily ever after.

Oh Canada!

IF THE Princess of Wales is looking for friends, she could do worse than head for Canada. The Princess of Wales Own Regiment in Kingston, Canada, which has just heard of her decision to resign as its Colonel-in-Chief, is fighting to keep her cipher on its regimental flag.

The new colours feature four coronets with the initial D for

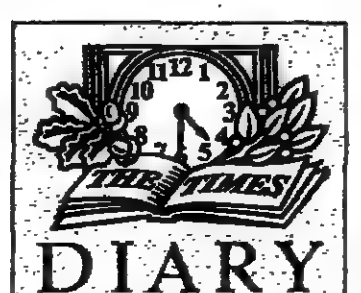
Diana in each corner and were approved by the Queen two years ago. They were to have been presented officially, with the Princess in attendance, this autumn. Buckingham Palace is said to want them changed.

"Following the Princess's resignation, we are in the strange situation of having to go to the Queen for re-approval of her approval of the colours two years ago," says Colonel Mike Shultz, the regiment's commanding officer.

"We want to keep Diana's cipher on the flag but the Queen might say no and we would have to revert to the cipher of Alexandra, Princess of Wales when the regiment was formed in 1865."

The regiment plans to keep up its annual tradition of presenting the Princess of Wales with a bouquet of flowers on her birthday, July 1. "I still feel terrible over her decision," says Colonel Shultz. Buckingham Palace refused to be drawn on its plans.

Michael Howard's decision to announce the referral of the *Bridgewater Four's* case to the Court of Appeal yesterday was seen by many as a clear attempt by the



Home Secretary to steal attention from Lord Woolf and his Access to Justice report. Woolf has been preparing his 370-page report for two years, while Howard could have made his announcement any time. The two men are known to have little time for each other.

Khan't pay

LIKE THE Queen, it appears that the former Pakistan cricket captain, Inran Khan, prefers not to carry money. Outside the High Court yesterday, where he was attending the tenth day of his libel battle with Ian Botham, the hound-faced Khan spotted a *Big Issue* seller.

He and his pregnant wife, Jemima, took a copy of the magazine, then realised that neither of them had any money to pay the man. After much awkward pocket tap-

ping they had to turn to one of their entourage for the £1.50, before finally the Khan caravan rolled on.

Barn howl

A SETBACK for the Prince of Wales's horse friend, Camilla Parker Bowles, her father, Major Bruce Shand, a man with a military snap despite his advancing years, is so fed up with planners that he has given up hope of moving into a conversion at her new home in Wiltshire.

Camilla had planned to convert a barn in the grounds of her £850,000



Joanna Lumley: horse-obsessed

Regency mansion at Lacock into a five-bedroom billet for her 79-year-old papa. But the scheme was rejected by planners who said it had "little or no architectural merit, contributing little to the countryside."

Major Shand was due to give evidence at an appeal next month but has abandoned the manoeuvre, saying: "At this rate I'll be underground before anything is resolved."

Ulster folk gathered in London on Thursday night to celebrate the launch of the Ulster Information Office, a London-based outfit dedicated to promoting the Orange cause. The office's new manager, Patricia Campbell, a Catholic, took her job only after failing to land one at the Ulster offices in Belfast — which she has now abandoned to sue the Unionists on grounds of religious discrimination.

Whoah there

SAILS are flapping in Cowes at reports that the sultry actress Joanna Lumley is planning to drop in to the festival by way of a tart and horse. She has purchased a yearling shire horse and keeps it at livery on the island. Named Madame Butterfly because her husband is a



Machel and Mandela: Presidential wedding?

conductor, the eventual plan is to employ the beast as her regular mode of transport on the island, which she visits regularly to see her son James.

Lover man

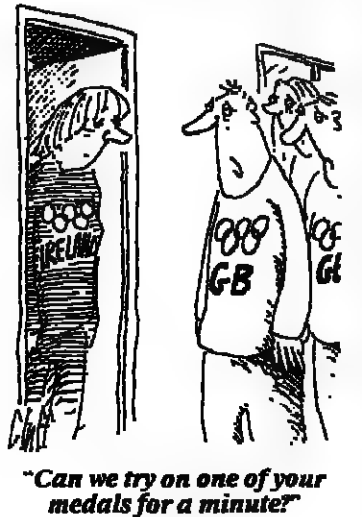
JUST days after turning 78 President Mandela is showing he is still pretty sappy. During his state visit to France last week, three meetings were arranged between him and Grace Machel, 50, the woman many think will soon be the third Mrs Mandela.

Mrs Machel is not likely to con-

fuse her fish and steak knives. She is the widow of the late Mozambican President, Samora Machel, and a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations children fund.

The Paris meetings mark the first time the Mandela-Machel relationship has shuffled into the public domain, as they appeared together before a close circle of diplomats and aides. Mrs Machel returned to South Africa on Mandela's presidential jet. The couple are known to dine regularly together in Pretoria.

P.H.S



Can we try on one of your medals for a minute?



CIVIL AND CIVILISED

The Woolf reforms deserve to be implemented wholesale

When Lord Woolf, now Master of the Rolls, was instructed to consider the reform of civil justice nearly two years ago, his aim was to produce a system more in tune with modern needs. This was not simply a matter of removing anachronisms: he sought to change the whole culture of the civil courts so that they acted in the interests of the users rather than those of the lawyers. His brief was to make justice cheaper, faster and less fussy. Yesterday's final report, *Access to Justice*, is an admirable attempt to meet these goals.

For too long, the legal system has been designed to benefit its practitioners. A doctor would risk being disciplined for recommending a wholly unnecessary operation. But a solicitor has everything to gain and nothing to lose by involving clients in long drawn-out legal procedures when they could more easily and cheaply avoid the courts altogether. Until the new generation of senior lawyers, such as Lord Woolf and Lord Bingham, reached the top of the profession, its leaders were as vociferous as their juniors in rejecting any attack on these vested interests. But a fresh breeze is now blowing through the law and it is much to be welcomed.

A survey commissioned by Lord Woolf to coincide with his report proved that the present system benefits lawyers more than clients. Most litigants with low-value claims ended up paying more in costs than they received in claims. Even in cases where the claims were between £12,500 and £25,000, average costs were from 40 per cent to 95 per cent of the claim.

The other unacceptable characteristic of the current situation is the unconscionable time that it takes to win justice. Personal injury and medical negligence cases are the worst: the survey found that they had a median time of 54 and 61 months respectively. Justice delayed is indeed justice

denied, particularly when the emotional strain of fighting for five years is added to the physical pain of the initial injury.

Lord Woolf's proposals should do much to ensure that justice becomes cheaper, quicker, simpler and more civilised. Most litigants will be directed first towards alternative dispute resolution, so that court action is used only as a last resort. Legal aid will be available for this, and all possible attempts will be made to encourage parties to settle without seeing the inside of a courtroom.

If cases do end up in court, there will be a "fast track" for claims between £3,000 and £10,000 which will have a fixed timetable, normally no longer than 30 weeks. The court will set and monitor the timetable, and apply sanctions to parties that do not abide by it. This should deter rich defendants from putting pressure on less well-off litigants by delaying and adding to the litigants' costs. The normal hearing time will be just three hours.

Lord Woolf also proposes that costs, as far as possible, should be fixed and predictable, to prevent litigants being sucked into paying more than they had imagined at the outset. Rules will be simplified and documents made less technical. If either party behaves uncooperatively or unreasonably, the court will have the power to take this into account.

Access to Justice is a compendium of excellent ideas, which deserve to be implemented wholesale: by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. They will save money, not just from the legal aid budget but from litigants' pockets. They will broaden justice, by allowing more people to win redress without bankrupting themselves in the process. And they will humanise and modernise a system which has become far too remote from everyday life. Lord Woolf has shown the way. Lord Mackay should gladly follow.

BURUNDI'S TORMENT

For once, a coup that could do more good than harm

Thursday's coup in Burundi had all the classic features. After seizing the television station and closing down the airport, frontiers and telecommunications, the new military rulers have disbanded the Parliament, banned political parties and imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew. It has been shrilly and predictably condemned by the United Nations, the European Union and — although they are now being more circumspect — the Americans. The Organisation of African Unity has gone one better, asserting that the coup is "not on" and "will be met by military force". All this tilling the sand and sowing in the air, far from helping the wretched Burundians, could deepen their suffering.

As Belgium and France have had the sense to recognise, this particular coup is not quite as classic as it seems. By the time that Pierre Buyoya, the retired Major who ruled the country from 1987 to 1993, was reinstated in power by the army, the Government of Burundi had imploded. Mourning for the Tutsi victims of a recent massacre, one among many that have claimed both Hutu and Tutsi in a pattern of escalating horror, had turned to hysteria. Pursued by stone-throwing mobs Sylvester Ntibunganya, the figurehead Hutu President, had prudently fled to the American Ambassador's residence; eight Hutu ministers had headed for that of the German Ambassador. The Tutsi Prime Minister, denounced by Hutu rebels and Tutsi extremists alike, resigned.

Half a million Burundians, out of a population of six million, have met violent deaths since independence in 1962. In a country dominated by the Tutsi minority's psychotic fears of extinction and the equally strong Hutu psychosis concerning Tutsi domination, nothing could be more dangerous than a power vacuum. There is no

point in outsiders mounting the constitutional hobby-horse when the urgent imperative is to fend off a bloodbath.

Instead of talking about isolating him, the world should count itself fortunate that it has Mr Buyoya to deal with. The Tutsi-dominated army could easily have championed another retired officer and former dictator, the Tutsi supremacist Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. Mr Buyoya, a moderate Tutsi, is seen by Hutus as a moderniser and conciliator. Along with the imprisoned General Obasanjo of Nigeria, he is one of the tiny handful of African soldiers to fight for democracy. In 1993, he handed over power peacefully to an elected Hutu president. He has offered all-party dialogue; and when he says that democracy comes second to the prevention of genocide, that is no more than the truth.

In order to restore civil peace, he must succeed in two almost impossible tasks. He must — without being overthrown in the attempt — restore discipline to the mainly Tutsi army and paramilitaries, ending arbitrary detentions and the reprisal massacres against peasant communities caught between the army and the equally ruthless Hutu rebel militias operating from bases in Zaïre. He has no choice but to confront this armed rebellion; it threatens the total breakdown of civil order. But as he himself says, the task of national reconciliation is ultimately political. That means convincing Tutsis that if they are ever to be safe, they must genuinely share power with the Hutu majority — as they did in the centuries before colonialism when Tutsis and Hutus mingled in a cohesive society. Mr Buyoya has some claim to represent that lost spirit of tolerance. He should be given time, and what help he asks, to attempt the near-impossible mission of restoring it to life.

SCRAMBLED EGG

Life on an island is not for fantasists or the faint-hearted

The Hebridean Isle of Eigg is up for sale — again. Only 15 months after Eigg was last sold to the surrealist German artist Martin Eckhard (brushtname "Maruma"), Eigg is back on the market. So once again the exotic Austrian "island-dealer" Farhad Vladi has been summoned to organise the sale of "one of nature's masterpieces". Once again the 54 islanders are up in arms to throw off their supposed "feudal" and alien yokes. And yet again the classic Compton Mackenzie comedy of a tiny Hebridean community taking on the outside world, and outwitting it by a combination of native guile and insular charm, is due for welcome revival.

The cast has its stock characters. Deadly earnest nationalists and conservationist bureaucrats bore for Britain about heritage, habitat and the human rights of islanders to own their own island. The inhabitants are launching an appeal for the £2 million needed to buy the island, with a canny eye on lottery loot. And history casts its romantic purple shadows. Since 1308 the private owners of Eigg have included such unlikely lairds as Sir Steven Runciman, master historian of Constantinople and the crusades, the extrovert bobsleighter Keith Schellenberg and, however improbable this sounds, a former *Times* journalist.

But Eigg is not just a small island. It is also a country of the mind, like Atlantis, Utopia, Brigadoon and the mythical island played by Barra in *Whisky Galore*, renamed *Tight Little Island* for American screens. No man is an island. But every man dreams of

living on one, and perhaps owning one. Marry an island woman, and you marry the whole island. Own an island, and you can pretend to be master of a microcosm.

Even unromantic Samuel Johnson fell for the romance of island-owning. On his tour of the Hebrides, the MacLeod of MacLeod offered him the pretty island of Isay in the Loch of Dunvegan, on condition that he lived there for at least one month a year. Dr Johnson was so delighted with this insular fantasy that he spoke of little else but his island, the house he would build there, how he would fortify it, what he would plant, and how he would sail out and take the Isle of Muck. He wrote of his Hebridean fantasy that he had tasted lotus, and was in danger of forgetting that he was ever to depart "till Mr Boswell sagely reproached me with my sluggishness and softness".

It is neither soft nor sluggish to live on an island, but hard. For life on Eigg is not all deep white beaches and rugged Hebridean scenery. In February the Scotch Mist blows a gale all day and night, and day does not dawn until 10, only to fall like a shutter five hours later. Living is more expensive, and the young emigrate to Glasgow in search of jobs and real life. Eigg, and Muck and Rum are islands in the real world as well as in the universal desert island daydream. To own an island is the archetypal escapist fantasy. But in this harsh world we are all only tenants on a short lease. The inhabitants of Eigg simply live in one of its more beautiful but more uncomfortable mansions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Questions of loyalty and Catholic criticism of the Queen

From Mr Timothy Concannon

Sir, Perhaps Mr William Oddie (report, July 25), as a relatively recent convert to the Roman Catholic faith, has not had time to acquire the peculiar relationship with the English Crown natural to English cradle Catholics.

Difficult theological concepts such as the trine nature of God taught in infancy mean that there is no difficulty in isolating the Queen as Head of State (an institution we were brought up to respect) and the Queen as Head of the Church of England (which we were not).

English Catholics have proved their loyalty to the former many times over the last 450 years in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. If the far worse scandal of the shameful treatment of King George IV's Catholic wife Maria Fitzherbert did not shake Catholic loyalty 200 years ago, a difficult decision in a difficult situation by our current Queen is hardly likely to do so now.

As someone far better qualified than I once said: "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's." The Queen's urging the Prince and Princess of Wales to divorce (an act perfectly legal according to the laws of England and Wales, of which she is also the custodian) is surely a thing belonging to Caesar, and even if it is not a thing belonging to God I cannot see how that affects the loyalty of Her Majesty's Catholic subjects.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY CONCANNON,
29 North Lane,
Burton, Petersfield, Hampshire.

From Mrs M. Scott-Wood

Sir, As an Anglican and divorcee it may seem remarkable that I wholeheartedly endorse the comments reportedly made by William Oddie regarding marriage and the monarchy.

I was saddened and surprised by the Queen's insistence on the divorce of her son and daughter-in-law, and extremely angry that the Archbishop of Canterbury condoned her actions. Marriage is a sacrament and when a union founders, as the Prince and Princess of Wales's has done, surely the Church should offer support and counselling, not this damage limitation exercise that our Anglican leader has provided.

Yours faithfully,
MURIEL SCOTT-WOOD,
Stonebridge Cottage,
Broadwell Lane,
St Leonards, East Sussex.
July 25.

From Mrs G. A. Dean

Sir, Most Catholics have not been "saying privately" what Mr Oddie is now saying publicly and what he is saying is highly offensive to the majority of Catholics in this country.

Yours, etc.
UNA DEAN,
23 Bolnere Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
July 22.

From Mrs S. Kerek

Sir, It is not only Catholics who would agree wholeheartedly with what Mr Oddie has to say.

I am not a Catholic, nor do I go to church very often, but nevertheless I believe that today, marriage, family and the role of the mother are dangerously undervalued.

The prevailing laissez faire attitude of society to the breakdown of family units (whether the parents are married or not) is leaving in its wake an emotionally scarred generation. As a Youth Court magistrate I have witnessed countless examples of the damage this is causing.

The Queen could and should have taken a clear and unequivocal stance on the Wales's divorce. By doing all in her power to maintain their marriage she could have sent a strong message to society that family values are worth defending — and never more so than when children are involved.

Yours faithfully,
S. KEREK,
Woodview,
Petershead,
Nr Weymouth, Dorsetshire.
July 25.

From Commander H. L. Foxworthy, RN (ret)

Sir, I see no reason whatsoever why I, as a Catholic, should not give 100 per cent loyalty to Her Majesty; I did so during 38 years of active service, and for five years since retiring.

She did, after all, sign my commission.

Yours faithfully,
H. FOXWORTHY,
Reverdig,
Kirkbuddo, Forfar, Angus.
July 25.

Privatisation threatens an already first-class Royal Mail

From Mr M. J. Emmett

Sir, I have spent over 35 years in private/public sector work, both as a clerical officer and as a factory operative, and until joining Royal Mail as a postal worker six years ago I had never experienced strike action, nor contemplated it. I find Mr George Guise's reference to the action being taken by the Commercial Workers Union as a "Neanderthal threat" (letter, July 24) both provocative, whilst negotiations are going on, and extremely offensive.

Royal Mail is being very intransigent in its unwillingness to concede to the unpopularity of changing our working practices. It is generally acknowledged that as a business we compare favourably with any other postal system in the world, and we are one of the cheapest in handling/distributing first-class items of mail.

Over the last ten-year period each postal worker has earned for Royal Mail the Government approximately £30,000 per annum. Each receives less than £10,000 per year basic.

Everywhere I go on delivery there are verbal messages of support from a public appreciation of our labours six days per week, 52 weeks per year come rain, heat, snow, etc.

There is not one postal worker who wants to resort to industrial action. It is up to Royal Mail to "drop team

working, which has failed in the US, and allow us to get on with the job we have been trained and are dedicated to do.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. EMMETT,
21 Chaucer Road,
Sittingbourne, Kent.
July 24.

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East (Conservative)

Sir, George Guise's comments on Post Office privatisation reflect the fanaticism of some of the ideologues in the Thatcher policy unit of the Eighties.

If postal services were consigned to private operators it would not be long before the universal delivery service — of what is just about the best postal service in the Western world — would quickly deteriorate into a hugely expensive delivery service, often run by shaky local companies prone to over-charge, particularly in rural areas.

The Post Office is a very successful and profitable public corporation, the ownership of which is firmly secondary to its efficiency and scope.

When a group of Conservative MPs organised the resistance to the privatisation two years ago, we were also aware that in this country, having done more successful privatisations than any other, there was no need to persist with further such transactions,

when a loss-making, inefficient entity was not involved.

Meanwhile, any well-run postal service is bound to be a "people" business with heavy manning inputs; postal workers are as entitled as company directors to be concerned to safeguard legitimate working methods, if they are successful. Anyway, that is a matter for negotiations between managers and operatives.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES,
House of Commons.
July 24.

From Sir Thomas Bazley

Sir, Mr Guise reveals a narrowly monetary concept of efficiency. In a public service efficiency means serving the public well making a profit, which the Royal Mail has done.

Thatcherite theorists seem unable to recognise the meaning of public service except as it applies to the Armed Services. Why not see which units can save money by reducing their costs most efficiently? But that could reduce the quality of their service.

Quality is not a Thatcherite concept.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS BAZLEY,
Eastleach Down Farm,
Eastleach Turville,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
July 24.

Fishing quotas

From Mr Tony Maskell

Sir, Your headline today, "Baldry hits back at quota-hoppers", concerns just one iniquity suffered by British fishing grounds (some of which we should be farming by now) since we joined the Common Market.

Tony Baldry said he was "seeking the legal right to insist" that foreign vessels pirating British national quotas should land "a minimum proportion" of their fish in Britain. This they do anyway because trucking it home is often much quicker than taking it there by sea.

If that is Mr Baldry's position be-

fore negotiations begin, what kind of compromise can we expect to end up with? Alterations to common fisheries policy (CFP) regulations require a majority vote from all member states, including Luxembourg, Austria and forseeably Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The CFP is bureaucracy gone mad and needs to be scrapped, allowing every fishing nation to regulate its own waters in the same way as applies to off-shore oil.

Yours sincerely,
TONY MASKELL,
3 Newton Close,
Newton Ferrers, Devon.
July 23.

'Murder One'

From Mr Michael Coyle

Sir, You have featured the dissatisfaction and annoyance that I, in common with many other viewers, expressed to the BBC (report, July 18) for its cavalier capitulation of the last three episodes of *Murder One*.

The word planning obviously does not apply to those who schedule a 23-week serial knowing it will be dropped just three weeks from its conclusion for an event whose timing has been known for years.

The corporation has now compounded its ineptitude with arrogance and penulthood. BSkyB had planned to

show the final episodes from last night but backed down after the BBC threatened legal action to stop the transmission. Rather than admit its mistake, the BBC has kept its ball so that no one can play with it.

I feel powerless to demonstrate my annoyance at the BBC. It enjoys a monopoly that appears to be beyond normal protest.

I cannot withhold my licence fee as I will then not be allowed to watch any television at all.

What can I do?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL COYLE,
18 Broadfields Avenue, NZ1.
July 24.

Victorian travellers

From Mr Redmond O'Hanlon

Sir, In his elegant review of Peter Raby's *Bright Paradise, Victorian Scientific Travellers* (Books, July 11) Asa Briggs tells us that Richard Spruce, "a humble man", "published no account of his journeys", although he wrote a treatise on *The Hepaticae of the Amazon and the Andes* which dealt with 700 species of wildflower, 400 of which he had named himself.

Yes, and this is strictly accurate: but Alfred Russel Wallace (whose work Professor Briggs also buttresses across) edited Spruce's *Notes of a Botanist on the Amazon and Andes* (two vols, 1908; reprinted, Johnson Reprint

Corporation, New York and London, 1970), a full account of Spruce's journeys.

It's a great work, full of learning and adventure, burningly alive, a classic. I wouldn't want any of your interested readers to miss it.

Yours in a passing rage,
REDMOND O'HANLON,
Pelican House,
Church Hanborough,
Witney, Oxfordshire.
July 12.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Allowing Lolitas their childhood

From the Reverend Ian Hamilton

Sir, Jane Gordon has written with obvious parental concern in calling the fashion industry to account for the erosion of her daughter's childhood (article, Body and Mind, July 23). She is in no doubt that "the grasping hands of the fashion industry" are most to blame for the promotion of clothing that makes "little girls look like Lolitas".

I have great sympathy with her. It is sad beyond words to see little girls wearing clothing that is calculated to excite sexual passions. But while I believe that the manifest amorality of the fashion world bears some responsibility for the erosion of childhood, does not the greater blame lie with parents for allowing their children to become prey to the whims, not only of the fashion industry, but also of the "entertainment" that dominates our television?

Surely parents have the primary responsibility to guard their children from images and values that corrupt and cheapen human life. This will mean at times risking the wrath of our children as we explain why certain clothing and certain television programmes are unsuitable.

For parents who care for the wellbeing of their children, and for Christian parents who care for the eternal wellbeing of their children, it will be recognised that their nurture and protection are first and foremost in our hands.

Yours sincerely,
IAN HAMILTON,
Loudoun Manse,
116A Loudoun Road,
Newmilns, Ayrshire.
July 23.

From Mr Peter Mullen

Sir, Worthily you disapprove of the fashion industry which is "making our little girls look like Lolitas".

And then you illustrate your disapproval with... a photograph of a model looking like Lolita.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MULLEN,
16 Whin Road, York.
July 24.

In for a penny

From Mr David W. Thornton

Sir, I recently returned from a holiday in your beautiful city of London. Upon visiting Harrods, I went to the men's room and was told by the young lady in charge there would be a charge of £1. I asked if she was kidding, and she said, "No", unless I had eaten at Harrods. Although I had a freshly used toothpick in my pocket, pride and rebellion prevailed, so I told her I would wait until I got back to the States.

On my way to the sporting goods department, I passed through a large foyer which displayed a number of Master Charge card emblems, with Harrods's name under them. Beneath the sign was seated a man, who appeared to be signing his name, and a long line of people waiting their turn.

I asked a clerk: "Are all of these people waiting for credit cards?" She said, "No, they were waiting for his autograph." Upon inquiring as to who he was, I was told that he was Bobby Charlton, Britain's most famous football player. I asked if he was charging for his autograph, and she replied, "Oh, No!" To which I responded, "You Brits have got it all backwards. In the States the restaurants are free and the athletes charge for their autograph."

Nevertheless, thank God for Britain and carry on.

Very truly yours,
DAVID W. THORNTON,
686 Poplar Street, PO Box T,
Macon, Georgia, 31202.
June 25.

All in the family

From Mr Patrick Dudgeon

Sir, I was interested to see in your obituary of Christopher Casson (July 12) that he had "enjoyed playing the part of Uncle Vanya" in an Irish production of *The Cherry Orchard*. Still, with all those characters milling about on the stage, I don't suppose the cast noticed an extra relative.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUDGEON,
Les Aiguères N.
Rue de la Tourraiche, Fréjus, 83600.
July 16.

Have no fear

From Father John Davies

Sir, Roger Cookson's dentist (letters July 23, 25) should leave his Bible open at Psalm 104: "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it!"

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIES,
Saint Katharine's Vicarage,
1 Sandhurst Road,
Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.
July 25.

From Mr Peter A. Lendrum

Sir, Some years ago I attended a dental surgeon in Sloane Street. His chair faced the window and beautifully engraved on one panel were the words, "Change and decay in all around I see". Another patient was Laurence Whistler.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LENDRUM,
37 Greycoat Gardens,
Greycoat Street, SW1.
July 25.



Leicestershire and Northamptonshire ACF
The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire and the Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire attended a dinner given by the Officers Mess of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Army Cadet Force last night at Crowborough, East Sussex, to mark their annual summer camp. Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett was the principal guest and Colonel I. Keays was the host.

Antonio Vivaldi, composer, Vienna, 1741; Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, Leipzig, 1750; Maximilien de F. Robespierre, French Revolution leader, executed, Paris, 1794; John Walter II, chief proprietor of *The Times* 1812-47, London, 1847; Vic Feather, Baron Feather, trades union leader, 1976.

Fingerprints were used as a means of identification for the first time, 1858.

Postcodes were introduced into Britain, 1959.

Horace Cutler, former leader, GLC, 94; Sir Kenneth Durham, former chairman, Unilever, 72; Mr Ian Grant, chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 53; Sir Peter Green, former chairman, Lloyd's, 72; Mr R.B. Henderson, former chairman, Ulster Television, 61; Mr Keith Hill, MP, 53; Mr Maurice Holmes, former chairman, London Transport Board, 85; Sir Gerald Hooper, former HM Procurator General, Treasury Solicitor and Queen's Proctor, 63; Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, 57; Mr R.B. Johnson, former Chief Constable, Lancashire, 64; Sir Russell Johnston, MP, 64; Mr Ian McCaskill, meteorologist, 58; Dame Rosemary Murray, former Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge

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